



Bexley Grammar School
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A Specialist Language College and
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14 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems a long time since I wrote to you on the January Bank Holiday before our return - it is less than two weeks!

Today we received the official DfE guidance for schools about the reduction in the self-isolation period from Monday, which you will have heard about in the media:

DfE guidance: 14 January – Coronavirus (COVID-19)

– Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

- From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.
- The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.
- If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.
- Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

The rules for contacts have not changed. Students who are identified as contacts of someone with COVID-19 should take daily rapid lateral flow tests for 7 days but do not need to self-isolate as long as they test negative each day and do not have any symptoms. Students can collect additional kits from reception if required.

As before:

- Please continue to oversee your child's twice-weekly testing at home and report positive Covid tests to [us at school](#) and through the [Online Reporting System](#).
- Omicron symptoms present as very similar to a winter cold/flu in many people. Please keep your child at home if there is any likelihood that their symptoms are Covid and contact the attendance office..

Face coverings

We are still handing out 50+ disposable masks per day! **Please ensure your child has a reusable face covering each day** which unfortunately does mean, in order to allow for washing, having two or three available at home to bring in during the week. We have started collecting the names of repeat offenders and will be contacting the parents of these students if they continue to come to school without a mask. Please don't be the recipient of that communication. You have been alerted...

Having said this, your children have, again, been excellent in terms of cooperation. It is a big ask to wear a mask for most of their day in school and I am very grateful to all our students for their forbearance. I am very hopeful that the guidance on wearing face coverings in the classroom will be relaxed later this month.

Lunch time

We have been working hard to improve the serving capacity of our canteen so that queuing times are reduced and students have a little longer in which to eat. However, please be aware that, because the number of students choosing to use the canteen each day can vary by more than a hundred students at each lunch break, the challenge to cater effectively for a broad range of dietary preferences while minimising waste is considerable. I would like, therefore, to convey my admiration and appreciation of the remarkable daily work of the canteen team led by Mrs Woodall.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. E. Phil', written in a cursive style.

cc. Sixth form students