



Bexley Grammar School
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A Specialist Language College and
IB World School
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Normality, the summer fayre and proper school uniform

With twice-weekly testing removed along with free test kits, we have been learning to live with Covid now, alongside the high numbers of cases nationally. I am pleased that students with symptoms have used their remaining kits to test as needed in recent weeks - we have ended the term with only a dozen student cases.

The DfE published their new guidance for schools yesterday, alongside the Government's [living with COVID](#) guidance. The school DfE guidance removes the requirements for isolation but states that: "*children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school... when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend*". Schools are asked not to hand out test kits any more. My understanding is that we treat all illnesses in students in much the same way, with particular caution where there is a high temperature involved. May I ask, therefore, that you are alert to your child's symptoms should they become unwell and use your judgement in deciding whether or not to keep them off school as you would for any infectious illness that we do not want to spread. **If you have any doubt, please contact the attendance office.**

Things have already been feeling normal again: Over the past two weeks we have had an amazing Spring Concert, a lively Power Day, a brilliant House Showcase evening and, last night, we hosted the Jack Petchey Speak Out Competition final for Bexley Borough for the first time.

The summer term will be what the summer of 2020 should have been like. Public examinations for years 13 and 11 are going ahead and we are planning to hold all our usual summer events. Those of you with first children in years 7, 8 and 9 will not have experienced our unique Summer Fayre, which counts as a school day, with a day off on the following Monday, in lieu. For your diaries:

Saturday 11th June	Summer Fayre - all students in years 7-10 and 12 in school
Monday 13th June	No school - in lieu of Saturday

We are also planning our annual **Speech Day** for the first time since 2019 - on **18th July** - more details nearer the time for parents of those who are awarded school prizes.

In the meantime, with Covid restrictions lifted, it is the right time to **restore our high standards of uniform** which have slipped a little during the winter with cold breezes in our well-ventilated classrooms!

On their return after the Easter break (I hope it will be warmer than it is today!), all students will be expected to wear full school uniform and remove outside coats in classrooms. A tendency to wear a school jumper without a blazer has crept in from a few students who have reasoned that classrooms were cold, etc. A few hoodies have appeared along with shoes or boots that are not school shoes. Please consult the uniform requirements in your child's school planner if you are unsure. I reserve the right to send a child home from school if they do not comply with our standards but very much hope that this can be avoided by parents taking a few moments to check that their children are in the correct uniform.

Year 12 have their Part 1 examinations on our return after Easter and the same applies to them. Students who do not conform to our sixth form uniform requirements may be denied access to their examination if they are not in school uniform. I would very much like to avoid sending a student home to dress properly, after which they would have to sit their examination on their own at another time.

I wish you and your families a lovely break over the Easter holidays and look forward to receiving refreshed, smartly dressed students in school on **Tuesday 19th April**.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. E. P. H. I. L.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

cc. Sixth form students