



Monday, 3 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you managed to have a good break over the festive holiday and that the new year has started well. A reminder that there is a staff training day tomorrow and all students return to school at 8.35am on Wednesday 5th January.

There is no doubt that our local community will have been significantly impacted by Covid-19 as the number of positive cases has risen significantly both locally and nationally in recent weeks and it is critically important that we are able to make the return to school as safe as possible for students and staff.

Face Coverings

In line with Government guidance, we will be temporarily asking students to wear face coverings in classrooms and other teaching spaces as well as other indoor communal areas such as corridors and lunch queues. This will be an expectation for all students unless they are on our exemption list and will last until 26th January, at which point there will be a Government review.

All children who have previously been registered as exempt will still be recorded within our system. If your child is exempt and you have not notified the school, please ensure that you email admin@boswells-school.com as soon as possible, so that we can add your child to the exemption list.

Please can I ask that you ensure your child has a face covering (and a spare) when they come to school on Wednesday.

Face coverings are compulsory on public transport. This means any student travelling to school via a community or school bus, **must** wear a mask whilst in the vehicle (unless exempt).

Lateral Flow Testing

Before Christmas, we wrote to parents inviting students to come into school on Tuesday 4th January for an onsite test in advance of their return. From the take up, it is clear that many parents have decided to take responsibility for ensuring their child takes a test at home. **It is essential this is undertaken.** Although there is no need to inform us if your child has a negative test result, you must inform us if it is positive (via attendance@boswells-school.com) and arrange for your child to have a confirmatory PCR test. You will find the latest self-isolation guidance below. You may still book an onsite test for your child for tomorrow by clicking [here](#). If you do book a slot for on-site testing it is **essential** that you also complete the consent form available at [this link](#). You will need your booking confirmation number in order to complete the consent form so please make your appointment first.

It continues to be an expectation that students are testing twice every week at home. Testing kits were issued to students at the end of last term and we will be distributing more kits over the next week. Even if someone has tested positive for Covid-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to participate in LFD testing once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

Changes to the Isolation Period

Since Wednesday 22nd December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for Covid-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and the person does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.

If your child is **not** returning to us on day 8 as they have not had two negative lateral flow tests, please can you inform us by emailing our attendance team (attendance@boswells-school.com).

Daily Testing for Close Contacts

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

If they live in the same household as someone with Covid-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with Covid-19 and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Assemblies, Sixth Form Private Study & Year 12 Examinations

Continuing from the end of last term, assemblies will not take place face to face on our return. Instead, these will be recorded and watched in tutor bases. Sixth Form Private Study will not be compulsory for Years 12 or 13, although any student wishing to use the study areas will be permitted to do so. These measures will be reviewed later this month.

Year 12 Mock Examinations will take place in lessons as planned over the next week.

Ventilation

Good ventilation is a key tool to limit the spread of Covid-19 and as such windows will continue to be open throughout the school. In light of the colder temperatures, students are encouraged to wear under armours or vests underneath their shirts or school jumpers and beneath their blazers (plain grey woollen v-neck jumpers permitted but **no** black jumpers or hoodies). Students will be allowed to wear their coats in classrooms in particularly low temperatures.

Visitors

To minimise potential risk, we would be grateful if parents only came into school where it is essential. The best ways to contact us in the meantime are by calling the school (01245 264451) or by emailing admin@boswells-school.com.

We continue to do everything within our power to minimise any disruption to your child's education. We will continue to follow guidance from the DfE and Public Health England and should there be any further changes I will advise you as soon as possible.

As always, your ongoing support and co-operation with the ever-changing measures is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Mansell
Headteacher

