



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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05 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you on Day 1 of our “national restrictions”.

Late yesterday, the Government published their updated guidance for the day to day running of schools. Schools have to implement any changes required by Monday 9th November, at the latest.

We have taken safe operations very seriously as a school and, under our supervision, students have adhered to safety rules well since September. Our fresh arrangements, in place since Monday, are already having a very positive impact on the day to day experience of our students.

Roughly speaking, the latest guidelines require all schools to deploy safety measures to the standards that we are already operating to.

Face Coverings

As a reminder, and to quote the guidance, “In schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings and we expect adults and pupils to be sensitive to those needs.”

We continue to insist on this and continue to sanction students who do not have a mask or do not wear one. We have a number of exempt students and are very mindful of being sensitive to their needs.

Transport To and From School

The latest guidance reiterates our current stance: “Children and young people aged 11 and over must wear a face covering on public transport. Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college. This does not apply to those who are exempt.

Travel in or out of local areas should be avoided, and parents, carers and staff should look to reduce the number of journeys they make - but travelling to deliver and access education is still permitted.

Staff, children and their parents and carers are encouraged to walk or cycle when travelling to and from school where this is possible, and to plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. This will allow social distancing to be practised.”

More than ever, we would encourage any students living within a reasonable distance of school to walk, scooter or cycle.

Clinically Vulnerable Students

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Please confirm with your child’s Head of Year where this is the case and we will make appropriate arrangements for your child’s education to continue at home.

The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to Mrs K Bones at kbones@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.



Please note that you will receive a letter if your child is clinically vulnerable and you must provide a copy of this letter to us.

Please also note that the guidance specifies that children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend school.

Examinations

The Prime Minister and Education Secretary have been clear that exams will go ahead next summer. The start date for public examinations next summer will be three weeks later than normal.

We have already been running "Period 13" for examination students after school, and these have been extremely well attended. The latest guidance prohibits us from running any extra-curricular activity, and we are in the process of determining what that means for "Period 13", because we view these sessions as academic interventions. We will discuss directly with students and write to you, if our "Period 13" arrangements change.

COVID-19 Symptoms

If your child is well now, they do not need any specific treatment. However, you should be vigilant for any symptoms of infection.

The common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature, and/or
- a new continuous cough, and/or
- a loss of sense of taste or smell

If you, or anyone in your family, has these symptoms now or in the future, stay at home for 10 days from when your symptoms started, even if you are mildly unwell. All other members of your household will need to self-isolate for 14 days. This is to protect others in your community. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. If you or your child become unwell then contact NHS 111 for advice.

Testing for people with symptoms is available and more information can be found [here](#).

Precautions

There are things you can do to avoid catching or spreading Coronavirus:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- when you leave your home, always wash your hands when you return
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

More information on COVID-19 is available on these websites from the [NHS](#) and the [Government](#).

Keeping our children and families, staff and local community safe is our priority. It is vital that we follow Government guidance and the advice from the local Public Health England Health Protection Team.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support. We will all need to continue to work together as we head into the weeks and months ahead. We are committed to clear and open communication so that you remain well informed.

With my best wishes,



Mr A McGinnes

Headteacher

aallen@buckinghamschool.org

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