



# THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

## A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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04 January 2022

Dear Colleagues, Parents, Carers and Students,

Happy New Year!

Inevitably, our first communication of the year with the community is about Covid-19. We have received the latest government guidance on operating schools, which applies from when our students return.

- **Key change: the guidance has changed such that we are asking staff and students to wear masks at all times when in communal areas – this includes classrooms**

I will summarise the ten pages of guidance into key points below:

### **Testing for students after the holiday period**

- All students have been asked/offered a lateral flow test, on site, in the two days before they return to school.
- Because of the way we have arranged this, we have avoided the “staggered start” that most schools are deploying
- If a child was signed up, the full details will already have been sent to parents/carers
- We urge that all other students take a lateral flow test, and report the result to the [school](#), and to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#)
- Staff and students should continue to complete lateral flow tests twice-weekly

### **Self-Isolation**

- Since Wednesday 22 December, the self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances
- To enjoy the reduced period, they should take Lateral Flow tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period
- Those who receive two negative test results are able to return to work/school
- If they cannot take these tests, or either is positive, they must complete 10 days of self-isolation
- See: [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

### **Close contacts of a positive case of COVID-19**

- This applies to 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
- In this case they should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school/work as normal
- If they test positive or develop symptoms at any time, they must self-isolate
- See: [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).



### **Same household as a positive case of Covid-19**

- People living in the same household as a positive case of Covid-19 should immediately seek a PCR test and continue to attend school/work whilst they await the result
- If the test is negative, then they should continue to take lateral flow tests for the remainder of the 7 days

### **Vaccination and booster doses for at-risk 12 to 15 year olds and all 16 to 17 year olds**

Booster vaccines should have been/will be made available to

- Children aged 12 to 15 years old who are in a clinical risk group or who are a household contact of immunosuppressed individuals, and those who are severely immunosuppressed
- All young people aged 16 to 17 years old
- The NHS will communicate how eligible children and young people can get their boosters shortly

### **Updated guidance on the use of face coverings in education settings**

- It is now recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms in secondary schools
- This is short term only, and will be reviewed by the government at the end of January
- The Buckingham School will be requiring all staff and students to wear masks in all communal areas, including classrooms – except those who are exempt
- As always, masks are required on buses and upon entrance to school in the morning
- **All of our other hygiene routines are being reiterated and we will redoubling our enforcement of them**

### **Exams and assessments in January**

- Examinations and assessments in January should go ahead as originally planned

### **Communication**

- We hope that you understand that staff absence levels may continue to affect the ability of the school to respond, especially in the case of illness
- We try to respond in a timely way, but it may take longer than usual
- We value your patience and understanding and continue to do so

### **Remote Learning**

- When a individuals, a whole class or year group are learning remotely, for Covid-19 related reasons, the school ensures that students who are well can continue to learn
- This can sometimes be affected by staff absence, but there are always things that your child can do at home, regardless of what is actually set
- Mr Dunckley is also writing to you, alongside this letter, highlight what subjects are asking your child to do when at home, as well as the work set on Google Classroom
- This includes the many online platforms that we access such as Dr Frost (Maths), Seneca Learning, GCSE Pod, Oak Academy, You Tube and more

In the case of subject specific queries, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. Your child's form tutor will also support your child if there are any issues.

Once again, I wish you a Happy New Year. I hope that 2022 sees you and those you love in the best of health.

With best wishes



**Mr Andrew McGinnes**  
Headteacher

