



# THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

## A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

25 February 2022

Dear Colleagues, Parents, Carers and Students

I am writing following the Prime Minister's announcement regarding the further easing of Covid-19 restrictions.

You will have heard about the significant reduction in measures, as part of a move towards "living with Covid-19". Below, I have outlined what these changes mean for us at school and within the wider community.

### **Tracing Close Contacts and Isolation**

- Staff and students with symptoms of Covid-19 should order and complete a PCR test
- They are advised to self-isolate until they receive the result – we hope that everyone has the consideration to follow the advice, even though it is no longer a rule
- If the PCR is positive, they can take a lateral flow test on days 5 and 6 of self-isolation, and return to normal routines, if both are negative. For full guidance, see guidance here: [People with Covid-19 and their contacts](#)
- Staff and students who are close contacts of a positive case do not need to self-isolate, unless they have symptoms. They should then follow the advice above
- Close contacts without symptoms do not need to take a test, unless they develop symptoms

### **Asymptomatic Testing**

- The testing of people without symptoms of Covid-19 has essentially come to an end
- Twice-weekly testing is no longer recommended, and the school will no longer be sent lateral flow tests to distribute to staff and students

### **Student Attendance**

- Subject to local infection rates, we are expecting significant improvements in school attendance – attendance has been 5%-10% lower than pre-pandemic levels across the country
- Students who are not unwell should attend school

### **Face Coverings**

- These are no longer recommended for use in schools and are now not required
- Staff and students are welcome to wear them if they wish to
- We reserve the right to reintroduce them at our discretion, if local infection rates rise
- We may be instructed to reintroduce them by health or education agencies
- The regulations for face coverings outside of school can be found [here](#)

*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 [finance@buckinghamschool.org](mailto:finance@buckinghamschool.org), if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.*



## **Good Hygiene**

- Good hand-hygiene continues to be promoted
- The school will continue to keep the corridor hand sanitisers stocked
- Desk and hand-cleaning routines will continue and classrooms will be provided with the required materials
- The school will continue with in-day cleaning of touchpoints

## **Ventilation**

- The opening of windows is the decision of the member of staff using the room
- The decision to allow students to wear coats (if windows are open) is the decision of the member of staff, not the students
- The guidance has changed to consider a balance between ventilation and room temperature
- As a separate note, the keeping of classroom doors open is a practice that we would wish to continue, regardless of Covid-19

## **One Way Systems**

- For the time-being, the normal entry and exit from buildings will revert to “the nearest exit”
- The school has grown significantly and we are reviewing the need for one-way systems at certain times, in certain places
- We will publicise any one-way systems that we reintroduce

I would like to take this opportunity, yet again, to thank the community for their support. We look forward to Spring emerging and tentatively rediscovering a little more normality.

With my very best wishes



## **Mr A McGinnes**

Headteacher

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#wearebuckinghamschool

#proudtobebuckingham

#buckingham

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