



OLD BUCKENHAM
HIGH SCHOOL

Be the best we can be

4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year. I hope you had a restful Christmas and were able to spend some time with your family and friends. I am very much looking forward to the new year, but as we know there are still challenges ahead regarding the ongoing impact of Covid. I am sure that our students will respond with resilience and determination supported by our fantastic staff.

Due to the changing nature of the virus, and following national, local and Trust guidance, the following changes will be made to the routines of our school. This is to reduce the risk of disruption to teaching and allow us to manage any necessary disruption effectively. Thanks to the flexibility and commitment of our staff over the Autumn Term, we managed to keep any disruption to students' lessons to an absolute minimum and will endeavour to continue to do so over the coming weeks and months. However, it is important that all parents and carers are aware that whilst we can navigate most issues through flexible and creative solutions, there may be times ahead where disruption is unavoidable. I would encourage all parents and carers to ensure all log on/passwords for our online learning platform 'Go 4 Schools' are up to date, and you contact the school if you are unable to log in or are having difficulties accessing the site.

Face Coverings

The Secretary of State has informed all schools that all Year 7-11 students need to wear face coverings in all enclosed areas in schools including classrooms from the start of term. Please ensure that students arrive to school with suitable face coverings. Unless exempt, all students are required to wear face coverings in all areas around the school except in outdoor uncovered areas, this includes on all school transport.

Ventilation

It is clear that well ventilated spaces decrease the chance of the airborne transmission of the Covid virus and we will be asking teachers to ensure at least one window and classroom doors are kept open during lessons. As a result, school coats may be worn during lesson times.

Testing

As you are aware, the school will be testing students on 5th January prior to their return to school during pre-arranged slots. If parents have not arranged to bring their son/daughter to be tested, I would ask that they take an LFD test prior to school arrival to protect themselves and others. We would also like all students to continue to test twice a week as set out in the Government guidelines which can be found [here](#): we have copied a brief summary of key details which is included below:



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'Further education and higher education students, and staff in all education and childcare settings, should take one self-test at home either the evening or morning before they return in January, then continue to test twice weekly at home.

Colleges should continue to make LFD tests available to students and staff who need them to enable them to test prior to, and at, the start of term.

Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site through ATS or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

Since Wednesday 22 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. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.'

Other Measures

- We will continue to conduct all Parents' Evenings and events on-line. The first one is the Year 11 Progress Evening this Thursday between 4.30 and 7.00pm and Year 9 next Tuesday.
- All social times will now be zoned. An updated map of the site with student social zones has been sent out already today with the student bulletin: this includes information regarding where students are able to purchase food, and which toilets they use during social times. Form tutors and duty staff will reinforce this message on students' return to school on the 6th January.

Finally, I look forward to working with you over the coming term. I am sure we will soon get back to a greater sense of normality.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Fell
Headteacher

