



RE: Current COVID risk assessment, start of spring term arrangements and head teacher recruitment update

Dear Parent/Carer

UPDATED COVID EXPECTATIONS:

Following last night's Plan B government announcement along with other information it is clear the new Omicron variant is more prevalent than, highly infectious and poses a heightened risk of transmission in the populace. We have reviewed our current risk assessment and will implement the steps outlined below with effect from tomorrow (Friday).

- No whole school events will now take place before the end of term and we will minimise year group gatherings
- Face coverings are being reintroduced in classrooms for staff and students who are able to. Please make sure your child has a few masks with them every day. Students exempt from wearing a face covering are expected to wear a green band for quick identification. These are available from G40.
- We ask that any students travelling overseas for the holidays build in self-isolation time for return before school starts again in January (further details of exact dates below)- 2 days for all travellers at present;
- Only necessary visitors and contractors will be allowed on site at school: Those who do come in as necessary should come after school hours where possible, wear face coverings, and are asked to do a LFD and not come in if they feel unwell. This means we will not be holding face to face meetings with parents this term but instead set up virtual or phone calls.
- There are no specific guidance changes at this time for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable or Clinically Vulnerable students/family members so please continue with current attendance arrangements and contact the school office if you have any questions which we can then discuss with you in person/
- After school clubs, sports and performing arts lessons will continue without change. Fixtures will be carefully considered on a case by case basis to include reviewing the infection rates in the opposition's school; and the measures they take to ensure they are as Covid secure a community as they can be.

This represents our immediate response. The whole risk assessment will be reviewed over Christmas and of course we will respond to any further guidance that is released in the coming days.

As always we need to work consistently to put in place these measures which are designed to hopefully minimise risks until the end of term and enable us to navigate our way safely to the holidays. To do this we rely on your support as parents. We want implementation to go as smoothly as possible but it is the end of a long term and everybody is understandably tired. These expectations will be shared with students tomorrow morning but please go through them with your child tonight so they know we are all working together.

START OF TERM AND TESTING ARRANGEMENTS:

We have already emailed you to collect permission to carry out Lateral Flow Tests at the start of next term. These will be carried out in a similar way to previously and take place in the sports hall. Students taking a test will come in for a specified time slot, the tests we will be using are nasal swab only and will be

supervised by staff who will communicate any positive outcomes to parents. Each year groups first lessons in school are the following day to testing as outlined below.

Overview:

YEAR 11	Weds 5 th Jan – home learning tasks and in school for test slot if appropriate Thursday 6 th Jan – full school attendance from 8:35
YEAR 10	Weds 5 th Jan – home learning tasks and in school for test slot if appropriate Thursday 6 th Jan – full school attendance from 8:35
YEAR 9	Weds 5 th Jan – home learning tasks Thursday 6 th Jan - home learning tasks and in school for test slot if appropriate Friday 7 th Jan – full school attendance from 8:35
YEAR 8	Weds 5 th Jan – home learning tasks Thursday 6 th Jan - home learning tasks and in school for test slot if appropriate Friday 7 th Jan – full school attendance from 8:35
YEAR 7	Weds 5 th Jan – home learning tasks and in school for test slot if appropriate Thursday 6 th Jan – full school attendance from 8:35

TESTING SLOTS:

Wednesday 5 th Jan	
TEST TIME	TUTOR GROUP
9:10	7SAF and 7SKF
9:50	7MWM and 7SSM
10:30	7NCT and 7JPT
11:20	10JFF and 10 EMF
12:00	10HPM and 10 TFM
12:40	10JWT and 10KCT
13: 40	11EMF and 11KFF
14: 20	11MMM and 11GWE
15:00	11NJT and 11SWT

Thursday 6 th Jan	
TEST TIME	TUTOR GROUP
9:10	8ALF and 8ARF
9:50	8MDM and 8RSM
10:30	8KLT and 8JNT
11:20	9RDF and 9VLF
12:00	9AMM and 9TBM
12:40	9DHT and 9SNT

It is important to recognise that Term does start for everybody on Weds January 5th so home learning will be set through loom videos on google classroom for those days on which students are not in school. These will not be live lessons but will need to be completed on the day in preparation for their first lessons back in school.

HEADTEACHER RECRUITMENT UPDATE:

Some of you will no doubt be aware that the advert for my replacement went out this week which you can see on our school website. Our Governors had a virtual meeting with Neil Strowger (BET CEO) to discuss the timeline, structure and qualities they are looking for in the new Head. Their views have been incorporated into the process which will take place through January and February. It is planned that we will be able to share the outcome with you by half term.

There will be a last edition for 2021 of BSW News next week which reflects that despite adverse circumstances we have achieved so much this term from the basics of keeping high quality education going with minimum disruption through to the return of a full co-curricular offer, trips and visits. Thank you for your ongoing support, understanding and feedback.

Yours sincerely

Adam Whitehead
Headteacher

Bohunt School Worthing

65a Broadwater Road, Worthing BN14 8AH

01903 601361

www.bohuntworthing.com

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