



Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you have all had a restful and peaceful holiday, have been able to enjoy some time with family and friends and have all managed to stay well during the break.

I am writing so early in the term to update you about two things:

- 1. The ways that schools have been asked to respond to the rising cases of the Omicron variant of Covid-19.**
- 2. An addition to our current behaviour strategies in school.**

1. Covid update

As you may know the government issued more guidance to schools in December and has now updated this further. The guidance comes under the following headings:

(i) Testing

Students, with the necessary permissions, will undertake one on-site test on their return to school. To facilitate this, the return to school for different year groups will be staggered.

Please see the letter and the text that was sent at the end of last term for your child(ren)'s test and return date and times. It has been good to see so many students in today.

We have been asked by the government to encourage students to test twice weekly at home after their return to school.

(ii) Self-isolation period

The self-isolation period following a positive PCR test has been reduced to 7 days. Students may now take LFD tests on days 6 and 7 and if these are negative and no high temperature is being experienced then students may return to school on day 8.

(iii) Close contacts of someone with Covid-19

Students between 5 years and 18 years and 6 months who are identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19 should take a daily LFD test every day for 7 days and can continue to attend school unless they test positive or have symptoms of Covid-19.

(iv) Masks

Masks should now be worn in classrooms as well as in communal spaces. This requirement will be reviewed by the government on Wednesday 26 January. Please ensure that your child(ren) is/are provided with suitable masks.

(v) External examinations

External examinations timetabled for January will go ahead as planned. It is vital that students attend and complete these examinations. Timetables for eligible students were issued before the Christmas break.



AMBITION



RESILIENCE



COURTESY



KINDNESS

Full details of all DfE advice for parents and carers can be found by following this link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

2. An addition to our current behaviour strategies in school.

Since we returned from the second lockdown, we have noticed that a small number of students are being increasingly defiant to staff; they ignore staff instructions and walk away from staff when they are being spoken to. We will not tolerate this rudeness and discourtesy and so will be taking action to stop this type of behaviour. We recognise that the vast majority of our students behave towards staff in a polite and appropriate way and so this will not apply to them.

Any student who is defiant and walks away from a member of staff will be isolated in the BSU (behaviour support unit) for the rest of that day, where work will be provided.

The student will have a same-day detention of 1 hour following their isolation. The government allows schools to detain students for 1 hour without contacting parents. However, we will endeavour to inform parents of the detention before the end of the day.

Parents will be informed that their child has been defiant, and the incident will be noted on the student's behaviour record.

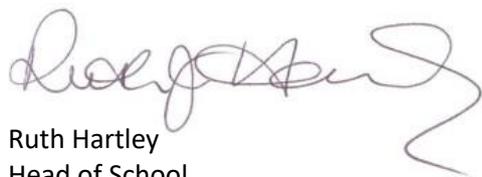
If a student refuses to go into the BSU (another incidence of defiance), parents will be contacted, and the student may be suspended. On return after the reinstatement meeting with parents the student will complete their day in isolation and the 1-hour detention as above.

Repeated incidences of defiance will be dealt with in line with BBEC's behaviour system and may result in a behaviour contract, a managed move or even permanent exclusion from BBEC.

We will be speaking to students about all these changes in assemblies as they return to school. I ask for your support in talking through all the points raised in this letter.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on admin@buttershaw.net.

Your sincerely



Ruth Hartley
Head of School

