



Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've reached the end of the Autumn term amidst a global pandemic and yet there is so much to celebrate. Our school community has pulled together with humanity, friendship and compassion to address all of the challenges that have come our way and we would like to thank you for this. Students have been working hard, producing some beautiful work and being kind and considerate. Please have a read of our [Christmas E-Newsletter](#) to find out more of what has been going on at Biddenham this term - it's a bumper edition!

We are also proud to present our first ever student magazine entitled [Discover](#). This has been coordinated by some of our sixth form students, ably supported by Mr Shakoor, and features articles written by the students themselves. We hope it is the first of many!

Like other schools this term, we have experienced a number of positive Covid-19 test results. Fortunately, we have been able to minimise the number of students needing to self isolate and avoid the need to close down whole year groups. However, it is clear, with rising numbers of cases locally, that we will have to continue to be vigilant and careful as we move into the new year. As Bedfordshire has now moved into Tier 3 it will be important to continue to ensure that we follow the rules for this area.

Staggered start to the new year

The government announced yesterday that they are requiring secondary schools to phase the return to full face to face teaching in January. The aim of this is to limit the risk of asymptomatic transmission of Covid-19 in schools following the Christmas holiday. So, to facilitate this the new school term arrangements are as follows:

Tuesday 5th January Year 11, Year 13 and Year 12 Health and Social Care and Criminology students **will attend school**.

Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will not attend school and receive remote learning at home

Monday 11th January All students will return to school

The only exceptions to this are vulnerable children and the children of key workers. As was the case previously, these children are welcome to attend school, please contact us on enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk to let us know if this is required.

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Remote learning

We have a 'live lesson' timetable in place for the beginning of term, that essentially follows the usual timetable. This will be communicated through our electronic systems and google classrooms, as we have done previously. Students will be able to access lessons using their chromebooks. We will send more details to parents and students on Monday 4th January.

Testing of secondary school students and staff

On Tuesday the government announced its intention to offer all secondary school students and staff access to rapid response testing. The details of how this will operate in practice have not yet been finalised. We will communicate with you more fully, in the new year, as soon as we have more information.

We finished our end of term email to staff with a quote from Groucho Marx, that seems to encapsulate the journey we are on and it seems appropriate for everyone...

'Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, and I'm going to be happy in it.'

Make the best of every day over the Christmas break.

Best wishes to you all for the festive season and a happy and healthy new year.



Mr D Bailey
Principal



Ms E Grylls
Head of School