



Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

14th May 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Re: Covid-19 safety measures - keeping us safe

We hope this letter finds you safe and well. Recently there have been a number of government announcements and we feel it important to let you know the situation locally and how we are responding at Biddenham.

This week the government announced that face coverings would not be required in secondary schools nationally. The updated DfE guidance issued states that:

“The reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. In all cases, any educational drawbacks should be balanced with the benefits of managing transmission... Immediate outbreak response (at the level of individual settings or a cluster of settings) remains for local Directors of Public Health to advise on.”

We are aware of an increase in positive COVID cases in schools in Bedford, including some cases that are being treated as a Variant of Concern. Three schools locally have already had Coronavirus Mobile Testing units set up at the direction of Public Health. At Biddenham we have had 2 positive cases since starting back to school before Easter.

The guidance from the Director of Public Health is that schools should continue to use all preventative measures, including face coverings in schools to help reduce the transmission of COVID cases in Bedford Borough. Having reviewed our risk assessment and in order to keep our school community safe the following safety measures will continue to be in place:

- Face coverings will be worn by students and staff in classrooms, offices, communal areas and corridors.
- Regular hand cleansing and sanitising.
- Students cleaning desks in classrooms after use.
- Doors and windows remaining open to ensure ventilation and minimise touching of handles and surfaces.
- A clear one way system in place for students and staff to follow.
- At break and social times the students will need to stay in their year groups and in allocated ‘zoned’ areas of the school. Students will be expected to remain outside as much as possible.
- Students will need to bring lunch with them still. We will continue to prepare packed lunches for students eligible for free school meals.
- There will be staggered starts at the start of the day, lunchtime and at the end of the day and a tutorial at the beginning of the day for all students.
- Parents and carers are requested not to come to the school to drop their child off, unless by car or come into the school buildings for any reason. When dropping students off parents and carers should stay in the car at all times.

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We strongly encourage families to continue with regular Lateral Flow Testing at home and report all results to the NHS website at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. Parents, carers and/or students will also need to inform the school of any positive test results by calling on 01234 342521 or by email at enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk including your child's name and year group. If anyone tests positive you, your household and any support bubbles you are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and school as outlined above and then order a [confirmatory PCR test](#).

We are hopeful that by being vigilant with our safety measures coupled with regular LFD testing that we can minimise Covid-19 transmission in the Bedford area and protect our school community. We will continue to update you regularly.

Thank you for your patience and ongoing support.



Mr D Bailey
Principal



Ms E Grylls
Head of School