



Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

21st May 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Re: Important Covid-19 update

We come to the end of another week and find ourselves in the position of needing to write to you again with another Covid-19 safety update. Bedford has been highlighted in the national press due to the increasing Covid numbers locally, including the new variant of concern. We have been asked by Bedford Council to share with you the current position and advice with regard to testing and vaccinations.

Surge Testing in Bedford Borough

A COVID-19 variant of concern has been identified in Bedford Borough and we're urging **everyone who lives in Queens Park, Cauldwell, Kingsbrook or Wixams to take a PCR test.**

If you live in one of these areas Mobile Testing Units will be available for drop ins from Thursday 20 May until Friday 28 May with no appointment necessary:

- Oasis Beach Pool, Cardington Road, Kingsbrook, Bedford, MK42 0BZ (8am to 6pm)
- John Bunyan Sports and Fitness, Mile Road, Cauldwell, Bedford, MK42 9TS (8am to 6pm)
- Enterprise House, Old Ford End Road, Queens Park, Bedford, MK40 4PF (8am to 5pm)
- Seasons Garden Centre, Bedford Road, Wixams, MK45 3HU (8.30am to 6pm)

Further collect and drop off points for tests will be available in each of the areas from Friday at London Road Surgery, Cauldwell Community Centre, Althorpe Street, Queens Park Community Centre and Lakeview Village Hall in Wixams and these will be open 8am-6pm.

Don't attend an MTU if you have symptoms of COVID-19, as you could spread the virus to other people. Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test by calling 119 or visiting www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Free tests are available in Bedford. Book your test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119 now.

- If you have any of the symptoms of coronavirus you must self-isolate and get tested.
- No one in your household should leave home if anyone has symptoms.
- If you test positive for coronavirus, you must share information about where you have been and who you have met, with the NHS Test and Trace service, helping us all to stop the virus spreading and save lives.

Covid cases at Biddenham

Unfortunately, we have had 8 positive new cases just this week, leading to a large number of students needing to self-isolate. In order to reduce the potential for in-school transmission and having spoken with the local authority we have taken the decision that Year 11, Year 12 Level 2, and Year 13 students will move to remote learning from **Monday 24th May**. We appreciate that this will be disappointing for many of our students, having got this far in the Summer term, but feel this will ultimately help to protect our community. Further information about remote learning and

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support for these students will be shared in a separate letter to parents/carers and students directly.

Years 7, 8, 9 10 and Year 12 Level 3 will continue to attend school next week.

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 really hope that by reducing the number of students in school, being vigilant with our safety measures and continuing with regular LFD testing that we can minimise Covid-19 transmission in the Bedford area and protect our school and wider 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