

22 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

At the end of our first half term, I wanted to write to thank you all for your support with ensuring we are providing the safest environment we can. Our average attendance is similar to previous years but could still be better. I am delighted to say that teachers and students have adapted really well to the new routines and it is clear that lessons are purposeful and challenging. It is also great to see “year bubble” ACE activities starting to take shape and I would encourage students to access these clubs as much as possible. National Governing bodies are continually adapting their guidance around outdoor activity and I am delighted to say that PE lessons will be introducing a wider variety of sports after half term.

I have outlined a few reminders below and some potential additions to our behaviour policy to ensure attendance, lateness and uniform improves further. There are also some updates to the national guidance that I have provided links for:

- I would like to thank parents/carers for responding to our request for Hadow Road to be kept as clear as possible during drop off and pick up times. However, we have received complaints from some residents that driveways are being blocked in the mornings and pick up times. The Local Authority has increased traffic enforcement around the area to support safety
- As I am sure you are aware Covid cases are rising in our area. However, new guidance on the wearing of a mask in educational settings still recommends that, for areas in Tier 1, masks should not be worn in the classroom. As before we are happy for students and staff to wear masks in areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, like indoor communal areas. The full guidance on face coverings in schools can be found [here](#). We request that if masks are to be worn then they are of a single plain colour, ideally black or pink
- If one of your children or a member of your household is displaying COVID symptoms, then all members of the household (including siblings) should isolate for 14 days. We strongly encourage that you organise a test for the child/person displaying symptoms asap. Please use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service, found [here](#) if you are unsure. Please inform the Academy if you are self-isolating and DO NOT come back to school until you have the outcome of the test. If the test is positive, then the household needs to remain in isolation for the specified period. If the test is negative, then the household can stop isolating and your child can return to school
- With poor weather likely to impact us all over the coming months I would urge all students to bring a coat into school. These should be worn over a blazer. However, our uniform policy is very clear that hoodies are not to be brought into the Academy. If students bring hoodies into school they will be confiscated. Persistent disregard for this rule will result in parents having to collect the item from reception at a pre-arranged time, in line with Covid restrictions. I

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would like to reassure you that we are investigating ways to allow students to remain dry whilst outside. Please bear with us in this respect. Can I also remind parents that, as per previous communications, trainers are not permitted (this includes ALL black versions e.g Nike Air Force One. If there are medical reasons for wearing trainers then these will be dealt with on an individual basis.

- I hope you have enjoyed viewing our new website and the “dynamic” House Point page. Students are actively seeking House Points and being awarded them for doing the right thing every day. However, there are some students who are continually late, wearing jewellery which is not in accordance with our uniform policy or don't bring the correct equipment with them to school. Therefore, we are adding another layer into our detention system to cater for these persistent offenders and avoid repeated isolations or exclusions. There will now be a Senior Leadership / Principal's Detention every Friday from 3.00pm until 5.00pm. As the name suggests, this will be staffed by Senior Leaders and myself and will start from Friday 6 November
- Can I draw your attention to our website's two Virtual Open Day pages - if anyone has friends or family interested in joining at The Bourne Academy please see the following pages:

Main School

<https://www.thebourneacademy.com/page/?title=Virtual+Academy+Open+Day+2020&pid=192>

6th Form

<https://www.thebourneacademy.com/page/?title=Virtual+Sixth+Form+Open+Evening&pid=199>

- A reminder that parents/carers should only be coming on site in an emergency or if they have a prior appointment.

Finally, I have an extract from Public Health England which they have asked me to note in any communication to you:

“Your teachers and bubble mates are relying on you to keep each other safe. There have been relatively few cases of positive tests within schools in BCP and that is testament to the hard work of you and your schools, as well as your parents. When there is a positive test related to your school, local public health, the council and school assess what the close contacts have been within your bubble and class. On many occasions we are able to ask a small group to self-isolate, but sometimes a whole bubble may need to go home.

*This is for 2 weeks which is obviously additional time out of school and because you will be sent home to self-isolate it is also time away from your friends and activities outside of your home. When you are self-isolating you will be expected to stay at home indoors for the whole of that time. This is not just about not going to school; it is **staying in for 2 weeks**.*

This means that what you do at the weekend and half term is very important and can have an impact on your school or college. Just as within school you need to keep as much distance as possible, wash your hands frequently and cover your face where needed; you need to carry that on at the weekend in public places and wherever you are in contact with people outside of your family bubble. It also means that friends at other schools meeting with you outside of school is a risk not just to your bubble, but to theirs.

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We ask you to consider that if you go to a social event with more than 6 people from more than one school you are in breach of the law and putting your respective access to education at risk. The rule of 6 is the [law](#) and after the Prime Minister's recent statements it is likely to be enforced more stringently.

So we ask you to:

- Limit the spread of this disease in BCP schools by abiding by rules within and outside of school
- Keep attendance high by looking after your bubble at your school
- Keep to the rule of 6 and limit your interaction with friends from elsewhere

Remember:

- If you have symptoms don't come to school
- If someone close is awaiting a test and has symptoms don't come to school
- Be aware of space between you and others everywhere you can

The three biggest risks that we see over half term are: isolation not being understood, Hallowe'en and travel out of area. The advice is as follows:

- If you are in isolation then the isolating family/household members have to stay at home and cannot travel, except for hospital treatment that is prearranged. They must isolate for the period of time stipulated and you must inform the school and stick to the isolation. So if you are contacted by T&T you need to tell the school and say when they are allowed to leave.
- Hallowe'en cannot be "celebrated" outside of people's family units within the rule of 6. Clearly visiting people's houses is unsafe at the best of times but would be unwelcome and could be scary for people isolated and poorly. The more people socialise outside of their school bubble, the more risk they bring back into schools. All of us want pupils to be able to attend as much as possible; we need support from pupils and families for that.
- **Overseas Travel.** Guidance on travel has become more and more limited in where it is safe to travel. It is housed on [FCO](#) website and is also implied in some local lockdowns. If you plan to go abroad at half term there are only a small number of places that one can visit and not quarantine.
- Of the countries not covered by [exemption](#), Italy was recently removed and Sweden is the other thought to be at risk. Rates of the disease in Europe can be accessed [here](#)
- **Wales [non-essential travel](#)** effectively banned during half term and into early November
- **[Whilst Tier 3 restrictions](#) in England** are not all in legislation, travel into these areas is meant to be limited to essential reasons and people from there cannot overnight in other areas and people for Tier 1 and Tier 2 areas are advised against overnight stays in these areas. Rates there are much higher than here and much of the leisure and hospitality will be closed in NW England, Lancashire, Liverpool, Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire by half term.
- Scotland doesn't currently have a travel ban, but there are restrictions in place that limit shopping and leisure activities in the most populous areas.
- Northern Ireland has a circuit breaker 2 week half term in place and very little leisure and hospitality is open.

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Please take note of the advice above. As I mentioned before, it has been wonderful to have the Academy fully open again to all students. You should all be very proud of your children as they have adapted to their return with ease. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank staff for their commitment to our new procedures, they have been fantastic. Have a great half term break.

Kind regards,

Mr Avoth

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