

4th January 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely Christmas and a restful break. I am writing following my message to you at the end of last term and to confirm the arrangements for the return to school.

The really good news is that we are all set for a face-to-face return to teaching, once all of the return to school testing is complete. You will know from the media and your own experiences that Omicron is highly transmissible and there have been case numbers amongst our Academy community during the holidays, so this makes it even more important to try to identify any asymptomatic cases before we come back together fully this week.

The Government contacted schools, on Sunday 2 January, with their latest guidance. They are recommending that face coverings are worn in classrooms and teaching spaces for students in Year 7 and above, in light of the Omicron variant surge. The advice is short term only to support students and staff as they return to school this term and builds on the existing guidance that recommends face coverings for all in communal areas. Therefore, we are requesting that ALL students, unless they have an exemption, wear a face covering in classrooms until the 26 January, when Government Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed. Students will continue to be asked to wear a face covering in communal areas. Please also be aware that owing to examinations and Covid guidelines, ALL PE lessons will be outside for the next four weeks. Please be prepared for all weathers BUT clothing must be official Bourne Academy PE kit.

Thank you for continuing to test on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout the holidays. Below is a reminder of the schedule for Wednesday and Thursday onsite testing.

Wednesday 5 January 2022

Students to attend the Academy for their test, not in uniform, and then return home.

Year 10:

- 8.45am 10A and 10C tutor groups
- 9.05am 10H and 10K tutor groups
- 9.25am 10P and 10T tutor groups

Year 11

- 10.00am Anvil and Calshot students
- 10.20am Hurst and Kingswear students
- 10.40am Portland and Trinity students

Year 12 – 11.30am

Year 13 – 12.00pm

Year 8

- 2.00pm 8A and 8C tutor groups
- 2.20pm 8H and 8K tutor groups
- 2.40pm 8P and 8T tutor groups

Students should come to the lawn to test and then should leave site straight away. Please avoid mixing to and from school on the onsite test days. We will contact you if your child's test is positive.

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

The Bourne Academy, Hadow Road, Bournemouth, BH10 5HS

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Thursday 6 January 2022

All students who test negative on Wednesday should attend the Academy, as normal for the start of term, in full uniform and at their usual start time.

Students in Years 7 and 9 to attend the Academy, in full Academy uniform, at the following times.

They will go to lessons after their test, if the result is negative. If your child is not testing then they need to attend the Academy at their allocated time below. They will then be sent to their lesson with their tutor group.

Year 9 (Enter from main entrance for testing)

- 8.45am 9A and 9C tutor groups
- 9.05am 9H and 9K tutor groups
- 9.25am 9P and 9T tutor groups

Year 7

- 9.50am 7A and 7C tutor groups
- 10.10am 7H and 7K tutor groups
- 10.30am 7P and 7T tutor groups

All other year groups should return for the start of term, in full academy uniform, at their usual start time on Thursday 6 January. We will ensure our uniform and equipment guidelines are strictly adhered to so please make sure that your child has all equipment as detailed in their Academy planner ready for return as we cannot lend out items. Our policies set out clearly that only “natural” make up, with only one pair of stud earrings and a watch is permitted. Visible facial piercings and stretcher earrings are not allowed, and students will be asked to remove them, **this includes clear retainers**. Please note that students should not be wearing short skirts (they should not be rolled up) or skinny / tight trousers. The policy goes on to say that coloured nail varnish will not be tolerated. **Please note that students will be sent home to rectify any infringements or placed in isolation if this is not possible.**

It remains important that anyone with symptoms of Covid-19 does not attend school. The main symptoms are still officially identified as below, but it has been reported that Omicron symptoms can be similar to a cold. If you have any main symptoms, government advice is to arrange for a PCR test.

The main symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal


Lateral Flow Testing

The advice on lateral flow device testing has changed. Original advice was that you should not LFD test for 90 days after having Covid 19. This advice has changed and negative lateral flow tests are now key to reducing your isolation period from 10 to 7 days. As you may be aware, if you are a fully vaccinated adult, or under 18 years and 6 months, and test positive for Covid 19 (via PCR) you can

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stop self-isolating after 7 days if you do a rapid lateral flow test on days 6 and 7 of your self-isolation period and:

- both tests are negative
- you did both tests at least 24 hours apart
- you do not have a high temperature
- If you do a rapid lateral flow test on day 6 and test positive, wait 24 hours before you do the next test.

Full information about isolation periods for those who test positive and their households can be found at the following two links: [How long to self-isolate - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

As you are aware, we have had a number of measures already in place to mitigate against the spread of Covid. We will keep these in place upon return but will review by the end of January:

- Staggered starts and exits
- All assemblies will continue to be virtual
- Zones will continue with coloured badges to identify year groups
- Ventilation in school will be maximised and we will use the CO2 monitors as an indicator of where ventilation needs to be increased
- All students are advised to proactively hand sanitise throughout the day. It would be helpful if you could check that your child has enough sanitiser in their bag
- Daytime enhanced cleaning of the Academy site will be maintained, particularly common touch points such as doors and banister rails
- Visitors will be restricted to essential visitors by appointment only once again

Thank you for your support with all these extra arrangements. Let's hope we get to a point soon where they are no longer needed. I wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Avoth
Principal

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