

26th August 2021

Dear Families,

Re: Start of term information and updated COVID-19 protocol

This is my first opportunity to write to you all in the position of Acting Principal from September. Burton Borough is a fantastic school that serves its local community very well, and continues to develop and nurture its young people to allow them to flourish in the future, no matter what their background needs or abilities. Yet again this summer, despite the disruptions caused by the pandemic, our Y11 cohort left with excellent results with 78% of our students gaining a standard pass in both Maths and English. I was immensely proud of how this year group conducted themselves throughout these difficult times, and the maturity they showed in coping with all the uncertainty and upheaval.

At this point I would like to extend my best wishes to Miss Carter and hope that the remainder of her pregnancy runs as smoothly as possible. The sheer size and responsibility of managing the current pandemic alongside running a school is a huge task. I am sure you would all agree that this has been handled impeccably over the past 18 months.

Many of you will have already met me, heard me speak at various parent events, or read letters I have sent home. You will know that I always want the best for each and every student who walks through our gates. I have worked tirelessly over my 9 years here to help make Burton Borough School a positive and successful experience and as Acting Principal this will not change. I am blessed to inherit an incredibly knowledgeable and hardworking staff body, who all share our collective belief in growing good young adults who flourish under our tutorage. Finally, I look forward to working with both you as parents, and the community as a whole. When the school, the student, and the parents work together, anything is possible.

In the paragraphs below I have highlighted the key information you will need for our staggered return to school, and also the updated guidance from the Government surrounding COVID-19 protocol. The school's COVID-19 Action Plan is also attached to this letter.

Returning to school

The government requests that each student takes two Lateral Flow Tests within 3-5 days of each other on return to school. For students in years 8-11 who had already been given consent by families, we have this recorded. If you had not previously given consent, but wish to now or you would like to withdraw consent, please email covid.bbs@taw.org.uk

If you are going into **year 7, a survey for lateral flow testing in school** will be sent out to you separately. Please complete this survey as soon as possible so that we can organise the testing for Monday 6th September.



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In order to undertake this testing process, we have had to make changes to the usual school day. **The canteen will be closed for the first fortnight** to allow our canteen staff, who have been fully trained, to administer the tests and use this area for signing in and out. **As a result there will be no food served available on site** until the canteen re-opens on Monday 20th September. **Students will need to bring their own packed lunch from home.** Free school meals can be picked up as usual from the canteen before tutor time.

This also means that we will continue to shorten the lunch break for the first two weeks so that period 6 will be from 2.05-3.05pm. School will therefore finish 10 minutes early at **3.05pm**. No learning time will be affected by this. Unless there are further updates or changes from the government, **usual school timings will resume from 20th September 2021** (school to finish at 3:15pm).

Your child will also be returning on different days dependant upon which year group they are in, in accordance with Government guidance so that we can facilitate lateral flow testing. Year 11 will come in on Friday 3rd September to have their lateral flow tests. You will be emailed at the start of next week with the correct time for your child in year 11 to attend on Friday 3rd September. If your child is not able to attend on the 3rd September, they will be asked to have the test on Monday 6th September.

The following table highlights the details of this staggered return.

Year group	Day returning
11	Monday 6 th September (They will be tested on Friday 3 rd September)
7	Monday 6 th September
10	Tuesday 7 th September
9	Wednesday 8 th September
8	Thursday 9 th September

If your child is in years 11 and 7, they will start usual classroom lessons on Monday following an extended (CLL) tutor time (Period 1 and 2). **For the remainder of the week period 1 tutor time (CLL) will be extended until 9.45am** to allow students to collect PSDs, update timetables, and get the key information they will need for the testing, updated COVID procedures, and the year ahead.

If your child is in years 8, 9, 10 then lessons will start on TEAMS period 3 on Monday (10.15am), and halfway through period 2 from Tuesday (9.45am) up until they return to school.

Timetables will be available from Tuesday 31st August on My Child At School (MCAS) for students in years 8, 9 10 & 11. Please ask your child to take the time to look through these so that they are prepared for the start of learning. Students joining us in year 7, will receive their timetable when they start on Monday 6th September.

Changes to COVID-19 School protocol following the Government update on 16th August

These can be seen in more detail along with the rest of our school protocol in the action plan attached to this letter. The main changes though are as follows:

- Bubbles no longer required however we will be keeping students within year groups during social times
- If you have symptoms you must still isolate and take a PCR test
- Masks not required (but we would still strongly recommend wearing masks)
- Temperatures no longer need to be taken



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- Social distancing no longer required (but to do so where possible)
- No canteen in the first 2 weeks to allow for lateral flow tests. Canteen services to resume from the 20th September 2021.
- Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:
 - they are fully vaccinated
 - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
 - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
 - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
 - If the coronavirus test is negative, the student may come back to school and not self-isolate. Let school know immediately.

If your child has symptoms: You should immediately order/take them to a testing centre for a PCR (lab) test. If the result is negative, your child can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, your child, and close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow test (rapid 30 minute test): Your child should self-isolate. Please let us know as soon as possible. You should order/take your child for a confirmatory PCR (lab) test. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days and results are negative, your child will no longer need to isolate. If the PCR test is positive, your child must continue to isolate along with close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace. This is from the date of the positive LFT (rapid) test.

PCR tests can be booked online through the NHS Test and Trace website or by calling 119.

PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to school using the Covid-19 email address (covid.bbs@taw.org.uk) during term time or summer provision.

Contact Tracing

If your child has a positive PCR (lab) test result: NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering/arranging the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.

You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any individuals – or their parents and carers – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice.

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

At present, anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Test and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.

Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result



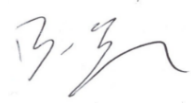
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is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.

If your child gets transport to school socially distancing rules and mask wearing has been removed as compulsory, however guidance advises that your child continues to use these preventative measures.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Morgan
Acting Principal



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