



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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Arrangements for Start of Autumn Term and Testing

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to explain the arrangements for the start of term and for carrying out Covid tests in school. Much of this information was provided at the end of the Summer Term but there is some additional information. The Department for Education has asked schools to test all pupils twice at the start of term. Although testing is voluntary we would request that all pupils attend to carry out these tests as they are part of the strategy for preventing the spread of infection and they will help to keep pupils and staff safe.

Please note the arrival and departure times for pupils on Thursday 2nd September. All pupils will be going home immediately after taking their Covid test. In order to avoid congestion we will be **closing the gates into the school** so please make arrangements to drop off and meet your child elsewhere after they have completed their test.

We know that many Year 7 pupils will not have carried out self-testing before now. The process is very straightforward and we will be helping everyone with this when they come into school. All testing is voluntary and consent is required. Pupils aged under 16 must have parent/carer consent. Please could you complete the following Google Form by **Tuesday 31st August** to indicate whether or not you give consent. You should complete this form even if you do not consent [Consent to Covid Testing Form](#). We will assume that if you have previously given consent for testing to take place then this remains the case. If you would now like to add or remove your child's name then please complete the Google Form by **Tuesday 31st August**. We will also **assume that any child attending school on Thursday 2nd September has consent for the test to be carried out** as there is no other reason to attend on that date. You should also complete this form if your child joined the school after March 2021.

Pupils aged 16 or older may complete this form themselves, but should consult with their parents/carers.

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



Testing is voluntary and pupils who have not been tested will be allowed to return to school. The school will only contact you if a positive result has been returned. If you do not hear from us then you can assume that the result was negative.

Please encourage your child to watch this video which shows how the testing will be performed: [BHGS Covid testing demo](#) . We will give everyone a demonstration on the day and will have plenty of staff on hand to help anyone who may need it. Please note that the tests we will be using for Test 1 are nasal swab only for Years 7-11 whilst 6th Form students will complete the same tests as they've been doing at home for the last few months (throat and nasal swab) - we will provide these for them.

The following table outlines the schedule for each year group:

Date	Year Group Activity	Notes
Thursday 2nd September	<p>LFD Test 1 on site for all pupils: 8.45-9.15 am: Year 7 9-9.15 am: Year 8 & Year 9 9.15-9.30 am: Years 10 - 13</p> <p>Pupils to leave school after taking their test</p>	<p>Years 7-11 should go straight to form rooms. Year 7 will be shown where to go on arrival.</p> <p>Pupils will leave for the day after taking their test.</p> <p>Parents/carers will be informed if a test is positive.</p> <p>School uniform should be worn and pupils should bring a pen and a mask (and a hand sanitiser if they have one).</p> <p>Pupils may bring a phone but this should be switched off in school.</p>
Friday 3rd September	<p>8.15am-2.30pm: Year 7 Induction Day 1 8.30am-12.30pm: 6th Form Induction (Years 12 & 13) Years 8-11: No school</p>	<p>Year 7 will follow an induction programme for the day. School uniform should be worn</p> <p>6th Form will follow an induction programme including confirmation of timetables</p>
Monday 6th September	<p>8.30am-2.00 pm Year 7 LFD Test 2 and Induction Day 2</p> <p>8.00am : Years 12 & 13 LFD Test 2 for students with lessons off site</p> <p>8.30am: rest of Years 12 & 13</p>	<p>Year 7 will follow an induction programme for the day. School uniform should be worn</p> <p>Years 12 & 13 will be allocated classrooms to carry out on site testing</p> <p>Any 6th Form student with lessons off site on Monday</p>

	<p>LFD Test 2 (including those who do not have lessons on Monday am)</p> <p>8.55am onwards: Years 12 & 13 to attend lessons</p> <p>Years 8-11: No school</p>	<p>morning should attend for their test at Bishop's then go to the site of the off-site lesson. We will aim to provide transport where required.</p> <p>6th Form pupils who do not have lessons Monday morning can go home after their test.</p>
Tuesday 7th September	<p>8.35am: LFD Test 2 for Years 8-11 followed by form registration.</p> <p>All pupils remain in school for the rest of the day for normal lessons</p> <p>8.35am: Normal school for Year 7 and 6th Form</p>	<p>All year groups remain in school for lessons after testing has been completed. School finishes at 3.00pm.</p> <p>Any pupils testing positive will be sent home.</p>
Wednesday 8th September	<p>8.35am: Catch-up testing for those who missed previous tests.</p> <p>Normal school day for all</p>	

The following table will help pupils identify where to go on arrival to school on Thursday 2nd September. Year 7 pupils will be guided to these rooms.

Form	Form Room	Form	Form Room
7Au	028	10Au	025
7Fr	221	10Fr	226
7Ha	021	10Ha	122
7Pa	118	10Pa	123
7Se	220	10Se	121
8Au	022	11Au	117
8Fr	224	11Fr	125
8Ha	119	11Ha	116
8Pa	026	11Pa	114
8Se	020	11Se	120
9Au	222	Year 12 & 13	<p>Please enter school by the Sports Hall entrance and go to the top floor - you will be directed to a science lab or other room.</p> <p>Please bring your phone with you to log your result</p>
9Fr	124		
9Ha	023		
9Pa	112		
9Se	225		

It is very important to be clear that the testing in school does not replace the NHS Test & Trace system. No pupil should attend school if they have Covid symptoms, are self-isolating or are completing a period of quarantine following travel abroad. Anyone with symptoms must apply for a PCR test using the NHS [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) and remain in isolation as instructed.

Vaccinations for 16 and 17 year olds

I have been asked by Hertfordshire County Council to forward on the following message regarding vaccinations for 16/17 year olds:

*Young people aged 16 and 17 have been invited by the NHS to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, ideally **before** the start of the autumn term, to help avoid the illness and disruption that COVID can cause. The good news is that in Hertfordshire, nearly 40% of 16 and 17 year-olds have already been vaccinated.*

All of Hertfordshire's larger vaccination centres are operating 'walk-in' vaccination services for young people. No appointment is necessary and 16 and 17 year-olds do not need the consent of their parents or guardians to have the vaccine. They are welcome to bring a parent, carer or friend along with them to get their vaccine if they'd like to. To find a local vaccination clinic in Hertfordshire, young people and their parents should check this website, which is regularly updated: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk>.

Families that are on holiday in England and who would like to get their vaccinations while they are away from home can check the national 'grab a jab' website to find the nearest vaccination centre to where they are staying, here: [Search - Find a walk-in coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination site \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-19/vaccination-centres)

Thank you for your cooperation and support. I do appreciate that this is not an ideal way to start the new year, especially for those who are new to the school. However, it is important that we follow DfE guidance and we have tried to organise things to minimise the amount of disruption to lessons. Pupils will be issued with a home test kit during the week beginning Monday 6th September and they are requested to test themselves at home twice per week for the first 3 weeks of term. This will be reviewed by the DfE at the end of September.

I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone back in school and to the term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood
Headteacher