



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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6th December 2021 - updated 20/12/21

NOTE: Y12 changes and consent reminder

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you on arrangements for the end of term and the latest guidance regarding Covid in relation to school, in particular the arrangements for testing pupils in school on their return from the Christmas holidays. Please **note that there will be a staggered start to the term in January** as set out below. As always, guidance can change at short notice, so please continue to read any further communication.

End of term

Term finishes on Friday 17th December at 12 noon. Reg's Coach will depart at 12.15 pm on Friday 17th December and all pupils should be off site by 12.15 pm. Please note that there will be no facility for us to supervise pupils after this time so please make arrangements for your child to go home. There will be no lunch facility on the last day but the canteen will be serving at break time.

Covid testing in January

The Department for Education has asked schools to test all pupils once 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. Pupils will be tested at the start of the day in an extended form time session, and once their results have been recorded they will participate in their normal timetabled lessons. Any pupil not being tested is expected in school at the usual time for registration.

All testing is voluntary and consent is required. Pupils aged under 16 must have parent/carer consent. If you have previously consented then we will assume that you continue to give your consent. You will need to complete the school [Consent to testing](#) form by **9 am Monday 13th December or as soon as possible if:**

- your child has joined the school since the start of September as you need to indicate whether or not you give consent. You should complete this form even if you do not consent
- you have previously given/withheld consent for testing and would now like to add or remove your child's name
- your child has had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days (since 5/10/2021) as we have been advised that testing should not go ahead if this is the case

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



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

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.

In order to facilitate this we are making the following changes to the start of term.

| | Tuesday 4th Jan | Wednesday 5th Jan | Thursday 6th Jan |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|
| Years 7, 8, 9 | No school | Arrive at 8.30 am for testing in school. Remain in school for the day for lessons. | Normal school for all |
| Years 10, 11 and 12 | Arrive at 8.30 am for testing in school. Remain in school for the day for lessons. <i>Year 12 students with lessons off site should arrive at 8 am so they can be taken to their teaching site in the minibus after testing.</i> | Normal school all day starting at 8.30 am. | |
| Year 12 | Arrive at 8.30 am for testing in school. Return home after the test. | Normal school all day starting at 8.30 am. | |
| Year 13 | Arrive at 8.30 am for testing in school. Return home after the test. | No lessons (study leave) | No lessons (study leave) |

Face masks

- DfE guidance is now that face coverings should be worn in all communal areas and when moving around the school. This applies to everyone on site unless they are exempt. We have already been implementing this at Bishop's so there is no need to make any changes.
- Face coverings should also be worn on public transport and Reg's coaches from now on

Home testing

- Pupils and staff should be conducting Lateral Flow (LFD) tests at home twice a week, including over the holidays. Please continue to support your child(ren) in carrying these home tests out and report the results to the NHS.

- If a pupil tests positive they must book a PCR test and self-isolate whilst waiting for the result. If the PCR is positive then they must self-isolate for 10 days as directed by Test & Trace.
- Please inform the school immediately of a positive LFD or PCR test

Close contacts

- Close contacts of a positive PCR test do not currently have to self-isolate if they are school age and/or have been vaccinated **unless the close contact has been identified as having contracted the new Omicron variant**. The PCR result should confirm whether the infected person has the Omicron variant and Test & Trace will ask them to identify close contacts.

Vaccinations

- 12-15 year olds can book vaccinations via the NHS if they were not vaccinated at school. We are waiting for confirmation as to whether there will be a follow up vaccination day at school or whether this age group will be offered a second jab.
- Our understanding is that anyone aged 16 or over should book their second vaccination at a vaccination centre via the NHS from 12 weeks after their first vaccination.
- Booster jabs are now recommended for those aged 18 or over from 12 weeks after their second vaccination. These can be booked at a vaccination centre via the NHS but they are being released in age order so 18 year olds are not currently prioritised for boosters.

Travel overseas

- If you are planning to travel overseas during the Christmas period please check the requirements regarding self-isolation for when you return. The guidance on this is changing daily so I cannot be sure what will be in place at the start of term.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood
Headteacher