



BEVERLEY HIGH SCHOOL



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Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well.

Thank you to all of the parents/carers who have sent in messages of thanks over the last few weeks, they really are valued by staff. We appreciate the trust that you place in us to keep your children safe and well educated. Last half term our attendance week by week was 98%, 97%, 93%, 94%, 94%, 95%, 95% which is testament to your commitment and that of your child to their education. This week attendance to date is also 95%.

Face Coverings

Those of you who are parents of sixth form students will already know that from Monday 2 November sixth form students have been required to wear a face covering at all times whilst on the two school sites. The decision was taken reflecting on the positive COVID cases prior to the half term holiday, the national and local COVID data for 16-24 year olds and changes to guidance in other territories around the world.

Currently Year 7-11 pupils are required to wear a face covering in all areas of the school site other than classrooms, however increasingly some students are choosing to wear a face covering in lessons and this has been an option since the full re-opening of schools in September. Currently it is an individual student/family decision.

Movement Around School

Following the introduction of the second national lockdown we have made the decision to reduce further the amount of movement around the school site by relocating Year 11 back into science labs for much of their week. These rooms are now all furnished with stools with backs, feedback about which has been very positive. This will not include option subjects who will continue with their specialist classrooms where needed. There will inevitably be an impact on other classes that had been moved into science laboratories. You can be reassured that our number one priority is COVID safety.

School Attendance

Since the announcement of the second national lockdown last weekend I know that some families are understandably anxious given their individual health circumstances and some have asked if their children can stay at home and receive their education remotely. School attendance is currently mandatory for all students other than those specifically self-isolating because of a suspected or positive COVID case and those who have received a new shielding communication due to being classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. Remote learning can only be provided for pupils who fall into those two categories. Please do not put further pressure on teachers by asking them to provide work for a child who does not fall into one of the above two categories. The relevant extracts from the latest government guidance are printed later in this letter for your information.



Remote Learning

As you know, in the interests of transparency, a letter is sent to the entire school community whenever a group of students or a school bubble is instructed to self-isolate due to a positive COVID case. A further letter is sent to the parents of those children who need to self-isolate. If you receive one of these more specific letters we ask for your patience for 24 hours whilst staff switch to remote learning for that group/bubble. Teachers are under considerable pressure teaching face-to-face in school under COVID restrictions whilst simultaneously learning new skills to be able to provide remote education.

Dressing for the Weather

The weather has been extremely kind to us this week but inevitably this will not last! Obviously with doors and windows open the school will be colder than normal. Therefore as we head further into the autumn/winter it is sensible to layer up with, for example, thermal vests, round neck white T shirts which can be worn under the school polo shirt, thick tights and scarves and coats. We need to retain the essence of our school uniform but adapt to the changing seasons.

Covid-19

I am sure that by now everyone is fully conversant with the symptoms of COVID-19. It is so important that if anyone in your household develops one of the 3 main symptoms of Covid-19 that you **do not send your child to school**; that you all self-isolate as a household; and that the symptomatic individual gets tested. The main symptoms 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

You need to inform school on Day 1 of your child's absence clearly informing us of their symptoms or informing us that they are having to self-isolate due to a household member's symptoms.

Your child will not be able to return to school until we receive from you the NHS confirmation of a negative test result (email or text message) or until 14 days after the start of symptoms, whichever is the earliest.

If your child is instructed to self-isolate for 14 days by school or by NHS Test and Trace the 14 days self-isolation period is mandatory and cannot be reduced by a negative test result.

I hope that you are able to enjoy your weekend at home.

Take care and stay safe

Yours sincerely



Sharon Japp
Headteacher





Education and childcare settings: New National Restrictions from 5 November 2020

How New National Restrictions to control the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) impact education, childcare and children's social care settings.

Published 4 November 2020

Last updated 5 November 2020

From: [Department for Education](#)

Schools

Schools continue to remain open for all children and young people as they have since the start of the autumn term for the duration of the national restrictions.

Being at school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time spent out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of education, and children's future ability to learn. It continues to be our aim that all pupils, in all year groups, remain in school full-time.

The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in the classroom far outweigh the low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools can take action to reduce risks still further.



Clinically extremely vulnerable children

More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Schools will need to make appropriate arrangements to enable them to continue their education at home.

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education.

Parents of clinically extremely vulnerable children will be receiving a letter shortly confirming this advice.

Children who are clinically vulnerable or have underlying health conditions but are not clinically extremely vulnerable, may continue to attend school in line with current guidance.

