



Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

Ref: 3181 LMA

3rd September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

September 2021 Update

We hope you and your child have had a happy, safe and enjoyable summer holiday and, as we look ahead to the return to school of all students, we want to provide you with pre-start update.

Health & Safety Update

Over the past eighteen months our 'normal' lives have changed significantly. As always, we have carefully reviewed all the advice from the Department for Education and Public Health England and here is a summary of our routines and expectations for the start of the school year:

- Many of the previous measures are no longer advised. For example, students will no longer be in bubbles meaning they will return to use of all dining areas, a combination of face to face and virtual assemblies and vertical tutoring (mixed year groups).
- All students will enter site through the front gate and then the green gate and on site by 8.45am
- We will continue to implement a short stagger at the end of the school day to reduce the footfall on Trevor Road. This means that students in Year 7, 8 and 9 will begin to exit site at 3.10pm followed shortly thereafter by Year 10 and 11 at 3.15pm
- With the exception of Monday 6 September on test day, it will no longer be obligatory for students, staff and visitors to wear face masks or visors within classrooms or communal areas. While **we still strongly encourage** our students to wear masks within the classroom and around site, this will become optional from Tuesday 7 September
- Students must continue to wear masks on school buses and public transport when travelling to and from school
- Good hygiene will continue to be a priority and encouraged including hand sanitiser available in each classroom
- Good ventilation in all rooms will continue to be a priority
- Frequent cleaning of surfaces around site will continue
- We will no longer trace close contacts if a child or teacher has a positive COVID-19 test result. If a student or member of staff tests positive, they will be required to isolate for 10 days with all other students continuing to attend school, unless they develop symptoms themselves
- Under-18s who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 will no longer need to self-isolate. Instead, when they are contacted by Test and Trace, they will be asked to take a PCR test. They will only have to isolate if they receive a positive test





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- If there is an outbreak at our school, staff and students may be advised to temporarily resume wearing of masks along with other restrictions to reduce the spread of the virus. If this happens we will make sure you are made fully aware at the earliest point.

Mass Testing Arrangements

Whilst we are sure many staff and students are excited about the return to school and a sense of normality, we are incredibly mindful that the virus continues to spread. Understandably, this may cause increase worry for some people. Regular testing for Covid-19 will be our biggest and most vital safeguard to limit the spread of the virus, the potential for ill health and requirement to work from home. This means that we will be working hard to ensure we maintain test momentum for as long as home testing is needed.

As you will have read in the media, this year, in line with Government Covid-19 guidelines for school, we are expected deliver an asymptomatic testing programme. This means that students are expected to take two on site, supervised tests, three to five days apart all with the aim of halting community transmission of the virus and thus making school as Covid secure as we can. For all students, the first test will take place in the gym on Monday 6 September with a second test taking place on Thursday 9 September with supervision from the Newcross Healthcare team and school staff. Some further information:

- All students (unless exempt) must arrive on Monday 6 September wearing a mask and continue to wear this until they receive a negative LFD test result from the test within school. From this point, the wearing of masks will be optional but strongly encouraged
- Students who do not have consent to undergo the LFD test will still be required to wear a mask
- On Thursday 9 September, students will be provided with home test kits. These tests should be completed twice weekly (Monday/Thursday morning or on the evening before) by students and staff until the end of September when we will provide a further update
- We will resume weekly text messages (Sunday night and Wednesday night) as a reminder for the home tests to be completed, with follow up messages the following day if they are not recorded.

Consent

Where consent has previously been given, there is no need to complete the form again that is below. If you did not previously give consent for your son/daughter to be tested in school, but would now wish to do so, please complete the form below and your child will complete the in-school tests and be provided with the testing kits after test 2. **Only parents of Year 7 and new starters** need to complete the short consent document here [BPA Testing Consent Form 2021](#).

Guidance on Reporting Results

There is still a requirement that all results, whether negative, positive or void are reported to NHS Test and Trace service. Please use the following link <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.



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We also require parents to share results, either negative, positive or void, with school to help monitor uptake and to safeguard the school community as best we can. Please report your result to school here: [Student Result Reporting Form - BPA](#).

If the LFD test result is positive, please keep your child at home, book a PCR test and let us know immediately using enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org

Uniform

As you will be aware, there has and continues to be disruption to school uniform supply caused by the pandemic and Brexit - the supply chain (in wider retail as well) is struggling. This issue has impacted everything from supply in the health service, retail and the hospitality industry.

We are in close communication with Monkhouse, our suppliers. Deliveries have been arriving at addresses this week, even today, but this may not be everyone's order. Your comments and feedback have been provided to Monkhouse who are working 24 hours a day to receive, move and dispatch stock. We have noted the difficulties that some parents have had to contact the company and this has been highlighted with their team on your (and our) behalf. Quite simply, this has been about the volume of calls and the capacity of their staff to deal with the issues and take the calls.

If you have already contacted school with a specific query, one of our team will have been or will be in touch with you today or tomorrow, following the school reopening. We appreciate that this is far from ideal and potentially stressful for families and especially some young people. Our commitment is that no child or family will be disadvantaged because of this situation – but as frustrating as it is for all of us, it is out of ours and Monkhouse's control.

Where uniform has not arrived, please drop us an email ASAP on enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org so that we can discuss solutions on a case by case basis.

Again, we acknowledge the frustration that this has caused and we do thank you for your patience in all of these matters – your support is greatly appreciated.

One last but very important point... If any family needs any support with uniform costs for September or at any time during the school year, please do not hesitate to get in touch **or** call us at school. We can talk about this sensitively and in confidence and if help is needed, we won't hesitate.

Monday 6 September

Year 8, 9 and 10 are expected in school for their LFD test followed by their review meeting as outlined in the letter that was sent earlier in the week. Students do not need to wear their school uniform for their review appointment. As noted above, they should bring a face mask with them and a pen.

Year 7 need to come to school and be on site for 8.45am in full school uniform, equipment and with a face mask. There will be lots of staff on site to direct them to the school hall where they will have an assembly and then meet their tutor. In the morning they will complete their LFD test followed by a range of transition activities to familiarise them with school, their peers and key members of the staff team.



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Year 11 need to come to school for 8.45am in full school uniform unless they have been contacted to come to school for a slightly earlier LFD test. Again, with a bag and full equipment.

Tuesday 7 September

All students are expected to attend school in full school uniform and arrive through the school gates by 8.45am at the very latest. They will then be directed to the yard and the area for lining up and Year 7 students will become familiar with this area on Monday 6. Students will then move straight to their tutor rooms. PE kit will not be required on this day although all other equipment will be required.

The day will involve a return to vertical tutoring, an assembly and revisiting our routines and expectations. During Lesson 1 and 2 we provide students with as much information as possible about the new 'normal' school day in preparation for the full school timetable beginning at 11.10am and then the following day.

Upcoming Events and Dates

In addition to the information provided above regarding your child's first two days here are some dates you may wish to add to your diary.

SLT Welcome Evenings

The start of the academic year is an excellent opportunity for us to invite all parents into school to meet with the Senior Leadership Team and provide you with a range of information for the year ahead. There will be a presentation and an opportunity to ask any questions individually at the end with the times outlined below.

- **Thursday 9 September** – Year 7 at 5.00pm, Year 8 and 9 at 6.00pm
- **Tuesday 14 September** – Year 10 at 5.00pm and Year 11 at 6.00pm

Parents are more than welcome to attend with students and wherever possible, it would be preferable if only one person per household attends the session. Please let us know in advance of the evening your intention to attend using enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org if possible.

Other dates for your attention:

- **Thursday 9 September:** Year 7 photographs (am)
- **Thursday 23 September:** Open Evening (*please note that school will close at 12.30pm on this day*)
- **Thursday 21 October:** Year 7 Tutor Evening

We are really excited to welcome your son or daughter back into school next week. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any further queries. Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

L MacLaren

Mrs MacLaren

Head of School



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