



BURSCOUGH PRIORY ACADEMY

Burscough Priory Academy,
Trevor Road,
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Telephone: 01704 893259

Email: enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org

Website: www.burscoughprioryacademy.org

Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

Ref: 3216 LMA

16 December 2021

Dear Parent,

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term we would like to give you an update on school life, information about the end of this term, for the new term and some support information for in-between. This is a lengthy letter and it includes lots of information related to Covid-19 testing and reporting arrangements - please take some time to read it, right to the end.

Reflecting on the Term

Despite all of the challenges this term has presented, we have had many successes and many of the traditional, pre-Covid activities have safely returned to school. Some of which have been shared on social media, others which have not. These include:

- Several visits to primary schools with the Year 7 ambassadors
- A fantastic Open Evening supported by 135 student ambassadors
- A successful Chromebook roll out to Year 7
- The restart of the full extra-curricular activities programme: Eco Committee, Debate Club, LGBTQ+ group, Games Club, Music activities and Chess Club amongst others
- Successful participation in a range of sport and physical activities across the West Lancashire and success in several tournaments in the district
- Hosting (with our student leaders) the West Lancashire School Sports Partnership primary football festival
- Two first class PSHE day including information on staying safe online, acceptable language versus discriminatory language and a brilliant Careers Fayre
- The Student Leadership Team ran successful Macmillan and Cancer Research events in school, raising over £500 in total
- Parents' Evenings for Year 7, 8 and 11

And still to come this week have ...

- Christmas dinner for 300 people kindly prepared by the Catering Team
- Christmas Accessories and Jumper Day with donations to Save the Children
- Rewards for the term to be shared with our students, recognising their engagement, achievement points and subject contributions



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Year 11

We are approaching the end of the Practice Examination series for this year group. As a school we would like to recognise their excellent conduct, coupled with their resilience and preparation for the exams. In the new year, we will communicate these results with students and families through the 'Brown Envelope' process, which rehearses the exams results session in the summer.

In addition, the Student Leadership Team have driven the collection and preparation of food for the Food Bank at Burscough Methodist Church. A newly formed food bank, this is for the benefit of the people in our (wider) community who may need this support. We are delighted with the response of the whole school community and how the Year 11 team have galvanised the school. In total, 61 hampers were delivered. Reverend Tindsley was so impressed with the efforts we have made and commented how much difference the hampers will make to families this Christmas.

Thank you for your contributions - this was a true community effort, exemplifying the 'E Pluribus Unum' spirit.

Financial Hardship and/or Family Difficulties

Along the lines noted, we are very aware that for many families this is a very difficult time, with rising costs of living, heating and food bills and the pressure of Christmas. If you are worrying about this, please let us know so that we can consider any support we can give to you. Likewise, if you have any other concerns going into this Christmas period that we can help with, even if it is just to point you in the direction of where help can be obtained, please do not hesitate to contact us. Your call or email will be treated sensitively and confidentially.

Farewell

At the end of this term we will say goodbye to Mrs Ambrose, Pastoral and Behaviour Manager for Year 8 and 9. We are sure that you will join us to give her a lovely farewell and thank her for her long service to the students and staff here at BPA.

End of Term Arrangements

The final day of the term is Friday 17 December. This is a normal day in terms of uniform and appearance. Lunch will be served slightly earlier during an extended break time – students who are eligible to receive a free school meal will still have the opportunity to take this. In line with the calendar online, the day will end at 12.30pm and the buses are booked.



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Support and Signposting – Personal Support and Mental Health





You will be aware that this has been a difficult term for our school and the local community. We do not shy away from recognising the support and respect that has been demonstrated as we have navigated some difficult weeks in school. As we move into the Christmas break, we would like to reiterate that there is a range of support available when we are and even when we are not in school. For your information, here is a summary of what students regularly see in school:


In School

- Personal Tutor
- Year PBM
- Email pdcsupport@burscoughprioryacademy.org
monitored during school hours
- House Progress Leader
- School Nurse/Counsellor
- Any other adult you feel comfortable talking to

Out of School

- A parent or another members of the family
- Friends
- Other groups that can help:





On the school website, following [this](#) link there are further help and signposts to reliable information and support. Click on the burgundy writing at the top of this page to search other sources of support.

Uniform and Appearance

As we return after the Christmas break, we would like to remind everyone of our expectations related to uniform, the policy link can be found on [this page](#). A key feature of our policy is what we wear (uniform) and how we wear it (appearance). In summary, some key points of note are:

- Knee length skirts
- Knee length socks (charcoal grey) or black tights (no bows or patterns)
- Leather style and sturdy school shoes – trainers and ballet style pumps are not permitted
- Jumpers should be untucked



Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

- One stud earring in the lobe of the ear (no other jewellery)
- A non-smart watch
- Hair colour should be natural with no severe cuts or styles

ICT Equipment and Online Access Survey

It is just under twelve months since we did the last ICT survey for students and last time this was completed, it was done in school by the students. This is our assessment of the level of resource that the students have available to complete home learning. We genuinely hope that we do not need to revert to home learning after the Christmas break or in the new year, but it is wise for us to be ready should it become necessary. In Year 7, 8 and sporadically in other year groups, the Chromebook for Learning Project is well supported and underpins home learning. Even if your child has a Chromebook, please complete the survey because there is a question about internet connectivity that is equally as important as the availability of a device. It will take less than one minute to complete.

[ICT Survey - BPA](#)

Covid-19 – Vaccinations for age 12 upwards

The Government, the DfE and our Trust is strongly recommending that all our students are vaccinated. Please reconsider if this has not already happened as we are keen to reduce absence due to Covid-19 and wherever possible and protect the health and wellbeing of all our students, staff and their families. There has been further information in the media about a second vaccination for 12-15-year olds and as yet we have not had any information from the School Health Team. As and when we do, we will send you their communication.

Attached and accompanying this email, from Lancashire County Council there is a copy of letter from Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health. Included are links to a range of resources but also booking links for first and further dose vaccinations.

Covid-19 - Testing over Christmas

As directed by the Department for Education, we have distributed kits for students (and staff) to continue to test over the Christmas period and into the new year to disrupt the chain of transmission in what may be a time of increased social mixing for some. The government have directed school staff and students to test when:

1. Entering a high-risk setting (high numbers of people or people you do not live with)
2. You are meeting someone who is potentially vulnerable including those with underlying health conditions.



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You should continue to report your test results via the NHS website. Until the pre-school test on Tuesday 4 January, there is no obligation to report holiday tests to school.

Confirmed Cases of Covid-19 over the Break

Please remember, you need to tell school if your child has Covid-19 and you should report this to school by emailing enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org. You will receive an automated reply at this will be monitored on the INSET day. This will inform us of who is exempt from the testing programme and who will be absent as the term starts. Please include your official notification from NHS Test and Trace so that we can administer this correctly on the school system with regards to test exemption or isolation related absence.

Testing after Christmas for the Start of the Spring Term

There is an expectation from the DFE, like the start of previous terms that we will begin the new term with a mass testing programme. We are reluctant to stagger the start of 2022 **but if things change dramatically for schools over the Christmas holiday, please be ready for Wednesday 5 January to be changed to be an additional INSET day.** This will only happen if it is crucial and we will inform you as soon as we reasonably can.

Right now, we plan to open to students on Wednesday 5 January to minimise the time missed from school but we do recognise the need for limited social mixing and testing before lessons and moving around school begins. As such, we would like to complete the mass test in a different way that minimises disruption to families and the student's education, but makes sure that community transmission is interrupted.

On the **evening of Tuesday 4 January, we expect all of our staff and students to complete a LFD test at home.** This means that asymptomatic cases can be detected before school begins on Wednesday. These results should be reported to school and via the NHS:

School: [Student Result Reporting Form - BPA](#)

NHS: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

On the **morning of Wednesday 5 January, school will start at 8.45am and there will be a tutor period session. During this session all students who are eligible will complete a LFD test,** this means that those infections that emerge overnight or for the low number of incomplete tests, we can detect Covid-19 early.

This test will be completed in the first hour of the day in House groups in either the school hall or in the ROSLA block. Students will be instructed and supervised to administer a test, they will wait for the fifteen minutes required for the test to provide a result. Please note that these tests are a new brand and they



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take a shorter amount of time to register a result in contrast to some of the home kits we have distributed recently.

If a student's test is negative, we will not contact you – assume it is negative unless you hear otherwise. If the test is positive, we will contact you and ask you if you can come and collect your child. This should be followed up with a PCR test. You will get notified of the result via the NHS reporting service.

If your child has any need that means they need some individual support to complete this test or if this arrangement would cause upset or distress, please let us know at enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org and we will make alternative arrangements their test on site. The intention is to keep everyone safe and maximise time in school.

Face Coverings in January

Over the last few days, staff and students, unless exempt, have worn their face coverings in and around the building. As ever, the support for this has been very pleasing and an indication of the care and compassion that exists in school. Rather than make a hasty decision in January and contact you again, and considering the recent announcements by the government, we will continue to wear face coverings on our return in January. We will review this and contact you on Friday 7 January with an update.

Key worker/vulnerable children

In the (hopefully) unlikely event that we would need to revert to home learning in January, we would still be providing on site provision for our most vulnerable students. If your child has previously been included in this you do not need to do anything. However, if your child has not previously been included (this is especially important for our Year 7 students) or your child has previously been included but would no longer be needed then please email us so that we can update our records and ensure appropriate provision is in place.

ClassCharts

There are some updates and changes to ClassCharts in January that we would like to inform you about. On the front page, when you log on, there is a 'wheel' or 'pie chart.' From January and from every term thereafter, this will be reset so that there is a 'white' chart at the start of the term rather than coloured green or red based on achievement or behaviour points. This means for the new year and term, there will be a reset for all students and the purpose is to encourage everyone to reset and focus on self-improvement. It may look like achievement or behaviour points have disappeared – they are held centrally in the system and will continue to accumulate as the academic year moves on.



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And Finally ...

School is closed over the Christmas break and this extends to all of our colleagues who work for the Endeavour Learning Trust in the Central Team. If you do contact school over the break, you will receive an automated response and these messages will be reviewed on Tuesday 4 and directed on Wednesday 5 January. The Spring Term starts with a calendared INSET day on Tuesday 4 January for staff, students are not expected in school. **School reopens for students on Wednesday 5 January at 8.45am.** In line with the message from the Department for Education, attendance is compulsory for all students.

We would like to thank you once again for your support, patience and kindness in what has been a testing term for everyone in the whole community and right across our county. Your supportive messages for what we have been doing have been very much appreciated by the team. We have tried really hard to make sensible decisions in the best interest of everyone in school and community and as ever, we are stronger together and your support is pivotal to make sure that our students thrive. The students really are second to none.

On behalf of all of the staff here at Burscough Priory Academy and right across our Trust, we would like to wish you a safe and well rested break. Happy Christmas and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2022.

Yours faithfully,

L MacLaren

Mrs MacLaren
Headteacher

