

**PRINCIPAL**

Miss M Sweetlove

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Dear Parents & Carers

Tomorrow we will be welcoming all students back to the academy for Term 3. We received updated guidance from the Department for Education on Sunday 2nd January 2022, outlining the measures that must be in place within schools to ensure that all schools can re-open for Term 3 safely. The updated operational guidance can be accessed at: [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/104242/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance.pdf)

Testing

It is vital that students have conducted their Lateral Flow Tests prior to returning to Bradfields Academy. Please ensure you report the test results here: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

If your child tests positive on a Lateral Flow Test, please ring the academy to inform us. You will then need to ensure your child:

- self-isolates in line with the [stay at home guidance](#) (if they test positive at school, you should arrange for them to be collected immediately)
- [book a free further test](#) (a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test) to confirm the result, whether the test was done at home, school or college. This still applies even if they have received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, your child should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within the 2 days following the positive LFD result, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and your child can return to school, as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms.

However, they must continue to self-isolate if:

- the PCR test result is positive
- you choose not to take a follow-up PCR test
- the follow-up PCR test was taken more than 2 days after the positive LFD test result

I would like to thank parents and carers who have been undertaking Lateral Flow Tests at home. Testing helps to slow the spread of the virus. Please continue to test twice a week using the Lateral Flow Tests. Additional tests are available from your child's form tutor. If you need additional tests, please write a note in your child's planner.

Wearing of Face Coverings

Staff, visitors, and students from year 7 upwards will be required to wear face coverings unless they are exempt, in classrooms and when moving around the academy. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise

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or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons. This will also be a temporary measure initially until the 28th January. Students should continue to wear face coverings when on transport as they have done since our return in September. Please ensure your child has a fresh clean face covering each day for travel and use in the academy.

Information on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

If you think your child might have coronavirus

Do not send your child to the academy, if:

- they are showing one or more [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
- they have had a positive test result
- there are other reasons requiring them to stay at home, for example, they are [required to quarantine](#), or they are awaiting their PCR result after a positive lateral flow test

Financial support to care for a child who is self-isolating

You may be eligible for a one-off Test and Trace Support Payment of £500 from Medway local authority if your child has been advised to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace. Further information on is available here: [claiming financial support under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#).

Safety of site

I would like to reassure parents that we have continued to ensure hygiene on site is maintained, with regular use of hand sanitiser, cleaning of surfaces and contact areas regularly throughout the day. We will continue with the one way system to support with movement around the academy and to reduce the number of contacts. We also treat all areas of the academy weekly with a surface sanitiser which kills 99.9% of bacteria and viruses.

Vaccination

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All eligible staff and students (now extended to children aged 5 and above who meet the criteria) are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on. To book a vaccination, please visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk).

Limiting visitors

In order to keep our community safe, we will once again be limiting visitors on site. It is important that we work together to protect the children and staff, therefore, parents and carers are not to enter reception without a prior appointment.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours faithfully

Ms M Sweetlove
Principal