

Our Ref: SLT/FSC-1103WSL

Thursday 11th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

All week, we have been buzzing here at Baysgarth, as our students have been returning to school. It's been great to welcome them off the buses, chat to them whilst they have been waiting for their tests, and see full classes learning in our classrooms. The students have been brilliant over the testing; full of maturity and bravery. They've been matched by our fantastic team of testers who have been ultra-efficient, ensuring we haven't had long queues waiting to be tested. Thanks to their diligence, we've been able to process 90 tests an hour when our expectation was 50-75 tests. This means we are confident that everybody will have had their three in-school tests by the end of Thursday 18th March and that there will be no further disruption to learning from this point onwards.

The biggest risk to the smooth running of the school now is if someone in our school community tests positive for Covid-19. We reiterate to parents, students and staff that anyone displaying any of the key Covid-19 symptoms should not come into school, but should go for a test as soon as possible. A reminder these 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 three 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

We are doing everything in our powers to maximise infection control from social distancing to masks, to sanitiser to wiping desks and chairs at the end of each lesson, but a positive test could result in hundreds being sent home to self-isolate, so we reiterate to follow the guidance and self-isolate if you are displaying any symptoms.

We're making a big deal of all students being in school at the moment and we're having a big push to see if we can get 'All In'. You'll have seen our social media campaign and our new banner outside school, and we value your support in making sure that all of our children are in school every day. It has such a positive impact on their mental and physical health, as well as their learning, so please (unless they are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms), send them in. You can read more in the [Tutor PowerPoint](#) shared today.

Positive Test

Although I only write the above paragraphs yesterday, I'm adding to them today to let you know we have had a positive test in school today. I'm proud that our systems and procedures worked really well and within an hour we had identified 67 other students and one member of staff who had been in close contact with the individual who tested positive. These students were isolated immediately and we managed to have them all picked up or sent home before lunch. These students will now have to self-isolate for the next 10 days and will return to school on Monday 22nd March. Whilst they are absent, work will be set for them on Google Classroom. Members of their family do not have to self-isolate unless they start to develop symptoms. This is a reminder to us all that we have to remain vigilant and follow the infection control and social distancing

procedures we have in place. Thank you to the parents involved for their quick response to come and collect their children from school. School is a safe place to be and parents should be sending their children in, unless informed otherwise.

Testing

Our in-school testing programme will come to an end next Thursday, by which time all of our students will have been tested three times. After this point, students will be issued with Covid-19 Self-Test Kits. If you [watch the webinar](#) that Miss Driscoll and I recorded last week, you will see what a self-test kit involves and how to carry out the tests at home. There are also plenty of resources online to help you to carry out the tests – click [here](#) for instructions and [here](#) for other supporting information.

We recommend that the tests are done twice a week, on a Sunday and Wednesday evening - this brings students in line with when staff are doing their self-tests. We also recommend that the whole family takes a test at the same time. This way it becomes more of an 'event', which will mean it is less likely to be forgotten, it will remove anxiety for your child, and it will mean the whole family feels safe which is important if you have elderly or vulnerable relatives that you are in regular contact with.

We only issue self-test kits for our students, but you can order them for the whole family online. You can collect from Cemetery Way in Scunthorpe or the Humber Bridge car park in Hessle (both are open 1pm-8pm and you don't need an appointment), or you can have them delivered to your door. [You can find the details on how to order here.](#)

There has been some confusion in the press about whether you need to go for a PCR test if you test positive using a self-test kit. I've copied below the government guidance on this so all parents are clear:

Confirmatory PCR testing following a test at home

Around 1 in 3 people who have Coronavirus (COVID-19) have no symptoms. By rolling out rapid testing to schools and universities at pace we are helping to uncover hidden cases of the virus, break the chains of transmission and stopping outbreaks before they get a chance to develop.

Students in secondary schools and colleges are currently testing on site – three tests, each 3 to 5 days apart – using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) as part of the rapid asymptomatic testing programme. Robust evaluations from PHE and the University of Oxford show that LFD tests are accurate, reliable and successfully identify those with Coronavirus (COVID-19) who could pass on the virus without realising. The tests have extremely low rates of false positives. LFD tests taken on test sites, such as on school and college grounds, do not need a confirmatory PCR test. This is because these tests are done in a controlled environment and trained staff read the results.

If a pupil or student received a supervised school-based LFD test, as part of the rapid asymptomatic testing programme, and it was positive then they and other members of their household must self-isolate. PCR testing is not advised if you have received a positive result from an LFD test at a school or college test site. If a parent was to do this and it returned a negative result, the policy remains that the pupil or student, their close contacts, and other members of their household must still self-isolate.

All positive results from rapid tests undertaken at home do need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test. This is because these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment and will not have trained staff on hand. Following positive LFD test at home, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked online or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the pupil or student and their close contacts should self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test (at home only) and a child can return to school.

Year 11

We have worked hard on providing a clear way forward for all of our Year 11 students in each one of their subjects from now until they leave school on **Friday 28th May**. This has been explained to them by their teachers and by Mr North in his virtual assemblies for students and parents. In each subject there will be a number of small assessments over the next few weeks followed by an end of year exam just before May half term. We will use the evidence collected from these assessments, as well as what we know already from teaching them GCSE content since Year 9, to come to a decision on their grade in each subject.

These grades will be moderated by Heads of Department and Senior Leaders before they are sent off to school leaders. We know our system will have integrity and be robust and evidence based. Our advice to students is clear - keep working hard, listening to feedback from your teachers, putting this advice into practise, and you will get the grades you deserve. The first step to achieve this is to be in school every day.

We have asked our students not to ask their teacher 'What grade will I get?' and we have told our teachers not to make statements saying an expected grade. Instead, students will be told a four-grade spread (e.g. 6-9, 2-5) of what they might achieve in the summer. This will be explained in more detail at our Year 11 Parents' Events, which we will be holding in the coming weeks.

Year 11 Exam Results

You will remember that many of our Year 11 students sat exams in January before the government announced the cancellation of all external exams this year. We've now had the results through for Hospitality and Catering, which had a 100% pass rate so congratulations to these students and good luck for your final grades this summer.

Year 8 Options

The Options process this year will launch on **Friday 19th March** with our Options Fair. Students will then have opportunities to experience taster sessions in some of those subjects which they haven't had the chance to study before. Parents will receive a letter on the 22nd March with pathway information and will have access to a dedicated Options website. The Options form will be released on **Wednesday 24th March** and will need to be completed and returned by **Sunday 18th April**.

Standards

It's been more than 80 days since the vast majority of students were last in school, and it's clear from this week that some students are rusty on our rules and expectations. Parents can help here by reiterating these key points that will prevent any of our students from getting into trouble unnecessarily:

- Jewellery and piercings: Students are permitted to wear one ring, a watch and one pair of stud earrings. No other jewellery is permitted. Nose piercings should be removed with a plastic retainer worn if required.
- Nails: Gel and acrylic nails are not permitted and students will be asked to remove these.
- Blazers: These should be worn at all times by all students. This includes students who are wearing their PE Kit.
- Coats: These must not be worn in the main building and should be removed on entry to the school building.
- Uniform: We understand the difficulty of obtaining some items whilst shops are closed - please contact Learning Managers if you are having problems sourcing uniform. We have a stock of uniform which we can loan out.

[Click here](#) to view details of our uniform expectations.

Support for Families over Easter

The Government is significantly expanding the tried and tested Holiday Activities and Food Programme in response to the Marcus Rashford campaign. This programme provides information and guidance on nutritional eating and enriching activities during school holidays to children and young people who are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. This programme has now been expanded to reach all Local Authority areas over the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays in 2021. In North Lincolnshire, this will run under the name 'Fuelled'.

You will already be aware that children and young people who are eligible for Free School Meals will be receiving food vouchers over the Easter holidays. These will be arriving in schools over the coming weeks for distribution to families prior to schools closing for Easter. Following DfE guidance we have created an activity bag with a range of enriching activities and resources, including recipe cards and nutritional information.

Items in the Activity Bags

Activity bags will be white so that the bags themselves can also be recycled.

Key Stage 3: Grow your own sunflower kit, chalk, juggling balls, colouring pencils, pencil sharpener, pen, tennis ball, stress ball, STEM kit, resistance band, skipping rope.

Key Stages 4/5: Grow your own sunflower kit, chalk, juggling balls, art colouring pencils, pencil sharpener, pen, tennis ball, stress ball, STEM kit, origami paper, resistance band, skipping rope

The activity bags and food vouchers will be distributed by us before we break up for Easter. We will send further details to eligible families shortly.

Chromebook Leasing

It's been great to see students bringing their Chromebooks to school this week and using them in lessons. It was also lovely to see how many parents tuned in to the webinar run by Johnathan Martin from PrimaryTech on Wednesday to show parents how to get the most out of their new device. Anyone who did not make the webinar can still view the recording [here](#). One or two parents have reported some teething problems and this is not unexpected for a scheme we are rolling out for the first time. Thanks for getting in touch with us over these and we are working hard on a solution, which will be rolled out over the next few days and which will give parents more control over their child's device when they are working from home.

Good News Stories and Thank You

You may remember me writing to you about Hollie Birch, who was one of the winners of a national literacy competition with her interpretation of 'A Twist on a Tale'. Hollie was interviewed by Radio Humberside last week to celebrate her win and you can hear her interview [here](#).

We also have a very proud parent in school as one of our HLTA's, Linda Pettit's son, Curtis, has just been announced as one of the 'top thirty under thirty' winners for the Humberside area. Curtis is a Baysgarth alumni whose dedication and determination in the face of adversity are an example to us all and we are very proud of his achievements.

We'd also like to thank the Booth family for the lovely card and huge box of biscuits that they gifted to our staff to say thank you for the support during lockdown. This was much appreciated and backs up the news we have had this week that Baysgarth is being used as an example of good practice for remote learning by companies training staff in schools across our region.

We'd also like to thank Gail Chamberlain, who is volunteering with us at the moment to support our Dance department. Gail has many years of successfully teaching dance in the local community and is giving her time for free to our students to support their learning and skill development.

We are delighted to have a full school once again and would like to thank all our families for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Richard Briggs
Head Teacher

