

26th August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following my letter of 13th August, I am writing to outline our Covid procedures to ensure a safe and successful start to the new academic year at Ely College and Bishop Laney Sixth Form.

Updated National Guidance for Schools

The national guidance for schools has been updated during the summer break and we will continue to follow this guidance carefully.

'...As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September...The government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic...' (Contingency framework: education and childcare settings Revised August 2021).

Control Measures

The key control measures we will operate at Ely are listed below:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone and encourage the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' routines
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes within the college site
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated in accordance with 'Ventilation and air conditioning during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic HSE Guidance 3rd August 2021'
- Ensure staff are provided with most up to date guidance from PHE and the DFE
- Follow public health/Government advice on testing, self-isolation, and management of confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Face Coverings

The updated national guidance states that:

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal area. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law, but we expect and recommend that members of the public continue to wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed spaces where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet, for example, on public transport.

Considering this change, we will not ask pupils to wearing face coverings at all on site, however, they will still be required for bus transport. If a pupil still wishes to wear a face covering, we ask that you contact their House Office on the training days so that the House team can be made aware.

CO₂ Monitors

In recent days, the government has announced it is funding a roll out of carbon dioxide monitors to education settings. Special schools and Alternative Providers are being prioritised and will start to receive their allocation from September. The expectation is that other schools receive their allocations, or at least part of it, during the autumn term. When we have more details on this, we will update you on how they will be used at Ely College and Bishop Laney Sixth Form.

Positive Cases

In my previous letter, I outlined the changes to our response to positive cases. Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result, confirmed through a PCR, or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

The most significant change for the new academic year is that the school will not track and trace others who may have been close contacts, this is now the role of the NHS Track and Trace service.

Testing on return to school

As I indicated in my last letter, we have decided to invite Year 7, 8 and 12 on Monday 6th September. This will enable us to make sure that the 640+ pupils joining us on Monday will have the time and space to find their way around the college and start the testing process. We feel that this is necessary as most of our Year 7 and 8 and some of our Year 12 pupils will not know their way around the site, nor how to find their tutor bases. We will welcome pupils from Year 9-13 on Tuesday 7th September.

Monday 6th September

Year 7: Arrive at the main reception area between 8:20 – 8:30

Year 8: Arrive at the main reception area between 9:20 – 9:30

Year 12: Details of the induction process for Year 12 pupils will be sent directly to pupils after this forthcoming Bank Holiday weekend by the BLSF office.

Tuesday 7th September

All pupils from Year 7 – 11 head to their tutor bases for 8:30

Year 13: Times will be communicated to pupils after this forthcoming Bank Holiday weekend by the BLSF office.

We are very conscious of the loss of learning for many over the past 18 months and strongly believe all pupils should be in school learning, enjoying and renewing friendships. Therefore, even if you have not consented to your child taking the Covid test or your child cannot make the date as described above, they are still expected to arrive for their first day of learning on either Monday 6th September or Tuesday 7th September as set out above.

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We will withdraw pupils from lessons on a rotational basis in the week of the 6th - 10th September and we hope to have completed all testing for all pupils by Tuesday 14th September. Below is the provisional timetable for testing for each year group.

Year Groups	Date of test
Year 12 test 1 (during induction)	Monday 6 th September
Years 7 and 10 test 1	Tuesday 7 th September
Years 8, 9 and 11 test 1	Wednesday 8 th September
Year 12 test 2 Year 13 test 1	Thursday 9 th September
Years 7 and 10 test 2	Friday 10 th September
Years 8, 9 and 11 test 2	Monday 13 th September
Year 13 test 2	Tuesday 14 th September

We realise that departure from school informing close contacts and whole 'close contact bubbles' being sent home, may cause some apprehension and we will work with parents and pupils where this is the case. Please remember that if you have concerns or worries you can use the COVID19 email:

covid19@elycollege.co.uk

I hope you enjoy the remainder of the holiday and the Bank Holiday weekend and look forward to welcoming our pupils back for the start of the Autumn term.

Yours faithfully

Simon Warburton
Principal



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