



TO CARE
TO LEARN
TO ACHIEVE

BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL
A Specialist Business and Enterprise College
with Applied Learning
Headteacher: Mrs H J Phillips

September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

I'm delighted, as are all staff, that our students are back with us and that they have made such a positive start after which, for some, has been a lengthy period of time away from a Bedford classroom. There are a lot of routines for them to get used to, all introduced in the interests of keeping everyone safe, and I am really impressed with the way that these have been followed and the maturity and understanding our students have shown.

I would like to thank all parents and guardians for supporting your children back into school, by returning the Home School Agreement, ensuring correct equipment is brought in, making sure full uniform is worn and for working with us to ensure we all protect each other and, hopefully, avoid the need for any further school closures.

I have been asked some questions about attendance and so have put together the guidance below to help everyone.

Attendance to School guidance for parents and guardians during the 2020 to 2021 academic year

Attendance expectations

From the start of the autumn term 2020 student attendance will be mandatory and the usual rules on attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil.
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities codes of conduct.

Not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19)

Although school attendance is mandatory from the start of the autumn term, there are some circumstances where students cannot attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

This is where a student's attendance at school would be:

- contrary to guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) from Public Health England (PHE) and/or the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).
- prohibited by any legislation (or instruments such as statutory directions) relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

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Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19, or whose household member develops symptoms, should immediately self-isolate. They should not attend school and should follow the steps below.

- A. Parent/Guardian should notify the school of their absence by phone.
- B. Parent/Guardian should provide the Reason for absence, date of onset of symptoms, etc.
- C. Follow the 'Stay at home' guidance for isolation advice for children and their households. The person with symptoms should isolate for 10 days starting from the first day of their symptoms and the rest of their household for 14 days.
- D. The child should get tested via NHS UK or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if no internet access. This would also apply to any parent or household member who develops symptoms.
- E. **Parents should immediately inform the school of the results of the test.**

Reasons for absence - examples linked to COVID-19

1. The student has symptoms

They should self-isolate and get a test.

If a student tests negative and if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating and return to school.

If the student remains unwell following the test (such as with a different illness), then this will be recorded as illness (not COVID-19 related).

If a student tests positive, they should continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms. They should only return to school if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste (anosmia). This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone.

2. If someone in the student's household has symptoms, the household should self-isolate and the member of their household should get a test.

If the member of the household tests negative, the student can stop self-isolating and can return to school.

If the household member tests positive, the student should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days from when the member of their household first had symptoms.

3. Students who are required to self-isolate because they are a close contact of someone who has symptoms or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19)

Students may not have symptoms themselves but may be required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone with coronavirus (COVID-19).

The **NHS test and trace** guidance states that a person should self-isolate for 14 days if they have had recent close contact with a person who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

4. Students who are required by legislation to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine following travel abroad

As usual, parents should plan their holidays within school breaks and avoid taking their children out of school during term time. This is classed as unauthorised absence and parents may be issued with a fixed penalty notice. Families should also consider that their child may need to self-isolate following trips overseas that require a period of quarantine.

5. Students who are clinically extremely vulnerable in a future local lockdown scenario only

Shielding advice for all adults and children paused on 1 August 2020. This means that even the small number of students who will remain on the shielded patient list can return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.

If in future, rates of the disease rise in local areas, children still on the shielding list (or family members still on the shielding list) from that area, and that area only, may be contacted by the government and advised to stay at home and shield during the period where rates remain high.

Families will receive a letter if they are required to shield again that parents will be able to share with the school.

The school will contact the parents of students who are shielding when measures in the local area are lifted and shielding is paused again, to set out the expectation that they can return to school.

6. Local lockdown

If rates of the disease rise locally, schools may need to prevent some students from attending. The school will follow Public Health England (PHE) or Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) guidance on what measures are necessary in the event of local lockdown.

Remote education

If a student is not attending school due to circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19), the school will offer them access to remote education. Students will be expected to engage with this remote learning provided they are fit to do so.

I have also received the following update from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM):

Buses

With capacity on the commercial bus network significantly reduced due to coronavirus social distancing measures, TfGM have worked with operators to run additional bus journeys each weekday across the region to help students get to and from school and college safely.

Duplicate bus journeys exclusively for school and college students will run behind the original scheduled service at set times, with the usual route number starting in 'S' to show they are school services.

They are being introduced on routes where pre-lockdown passenger data has shown the highest number of school and college students travelling and where bus seats are expected to be in high demand as a result.

Duplicate journeys, which run from the beginning of the new school year, will be in place until the autumn half-term holiday, subject to demand.

Click on the link below for full details of the routes from TfGM.

<https://tfgm.com/public-transport/schools/duplicate-school-bus-services>

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. J. Phillips', written in a cursive style.

Mrs H J Phillips
Headteacher