



**BIDDULPH
HIGH
SCHOOL**

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4th September 2020

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Welcome to the academic year 2020-2021. After such a long time, it has been lovely to hear our school resonating to the sound of students learning in their classrooms once again.

The difficulties with examination results documented in the media this summer provided upset and frustration for many students around the country. I am proud of the thoroughness and complete professionalism that all of our staff applied to their role in generating the Centre Assessed Grades for our students; these grades truly represented the efforts and abilities of students across the whole of the subjects that they studied. There were some incredible individual achievements with the majority of our Year 11 students choosing to join our successful Sixth Form, BH6.

Success at Post-16 can be determined by the number of successful applications to university, apprenticeship or employment. We are thrilled that so many of our students from Year 13 have progressed to their next stage of education, training or employment. Congratulations to them all.

What is important is the recognition of student success this year. All students worked hard to achieve their grades and despite the failure of national bodies to administer the process of awarding grades in an orderly fashion, all students who completed courses in 2020 deserve great credit for their endeavours.

Covid-19 challenges

This year will undoubtedly be a huge challenge for us all. Staff have spent the summer break re-organising the curriculum in order to allow students to cover examination syllabi and in-year subject content.

Against the backdrop of Covid-19, we have taken extensive measures around the school site to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all students and staff. Government advice now stipulates that students should wear face coverings in crowded areas, such as corridors and communal areas but **only** in localities where additional lockdown measures are in place.

Our advice remains the same. We recommend that you provide your child with a face covering that can be worn in the corridors between lessons, to minimise the risk of cross-year group contamination when the small number of shared specialist rooms are in use. We also recommend that students travelling to and from school on Hollinshead Coaches wear a face covering.

All students have a responsibility to hand-washing and social distancing which remain the most effective interventions to prevent the spread of Covid-19. We expect that all students will take their responsibility seriously and adhere to the behaviour and safety rules that we have put in place to support everyone in the school community.

Q How will the school hold assemblies and large-scale events?

The vast majority of assemblies will be held remotely, while we are continuing to review the processes for running Open Evenings and Parents' Evenings.



Q What happens in the event of a suspected case of Covid-19?

- Information and the latest guidance is found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>
- Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus will be sent home to get a test and the household will be advised to self-isolate. Anyone else in the bubble remains in school.
- If the test is negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID19), they can stop self-isolating. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- If the test is positive, they should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days. The family must engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- In the event of a positive test, we will contact the local health protection team straight away. We will then be given the latest advice about anyone who has been in close contact with the individual. Close contact is defined as face to face contact (under 1 metre) for any length of time – including talking to them or coughing on them and/or being within 1 to 2 metres of each other for more than 15 minutes – including travelling in a small vehicle.

Q What happens in the event of a local lockdown?

- In the event of a forced school closure or partial closure, we will switch to remote teaching which will be a mix of live and recorded lessons using the Microsoft Teams platform.
- Students will receive advice on accessing and participating in live and recorded lessons (including safeguarding and behaviour expectations) and how to submit work using the Microsoft Teams platform.

Developments on the school site

Work on developing the school building continued during the period between March and September. We have completed the works on the Sports Hall and boilers, as well as extensive re-wiring across a large part of the school.

Final reminders

A final reminder for all parents/carers. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, please do not come into the school Reception unannounced. We can only see parents/carers when a meeting has been pre-arranged and where it is not possible to discuss the issue over the phone.

If you are collecting your child in a car at the end of the school day, please arrange to meet them a little further away from the school as Conway Road does get very busy. Please use the parent/student journey planning map, available on our website, to help arrange a more appropriate pick-up point.

Our students have great things to achieve here at Biddulph High School and they should ensure that they get the very most out of every lesson. As we have learnt this year, the performance in each lesson, assessment and examination can have an impact upon what you achieve.

While the start of our year has been touched by sadness, we are looking forward to a more hopeful future.

As we move into this new and different world, I am reminded of a quote from Mahatma Gandhi, *"The future depends on what you do today."*

Yours sincerely,



S P Ascroft
Headteacher

