



**BIDDULPH
HIGH
SCHOOL**

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Headteacher. **Mrs E C Robinson BA(Hons)**

26th February 2021

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

As you are probably aware, all schools have been asked to reopen from Monday 8th March. We are delighted to be able to welcome our students back into the building and we are keen to do this as quickly and safely as possible. We have been given the opportunity to do this in a flexible way to allow for all students to be tested before they return to classes. Attached to this letter is a timetable for the return to school (a quick overview).

Testing for Covid-19 in School

For us to fully open successfully, it is essential that we can test as many students as possible. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. Keeping the virus under control is the only way that we will see an end to the restrictions that we are currently living under. Please **give your consent for testing**, if you have not already done so, through ParentPay via the following link <https://www.parentpay.com/> If you encounter any difficulties in doing this, please email your consent to office@biddulphhigh.co.uk Students over the age of 16 can give their own consent. If consent is not given, attendance to school is still compulsory on the allocated testing day.

Testing will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat, which students will be able to do for themselves. Students who have been in school in our keyworker groups have been doing this weekly for some time. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and students participating. There will be 3 tests in total conducted by the school. Following these, your child will be provided with an 'at home kit' and will be expected to test themselves at home twice weekly. Further instructions will follow when we send these kits home.

What happens if the test is positive in school?

If your child tests positive they will be isolated, and you will be contacted immediately. Ideally, we would ask that you collect them as quickly as possible but in extreme circumstances we have been told that a child can make their own way home if you give permission and they do not use public transport.

What happens if the test is negative in school?

Students will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. You will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if my child develops symptoms or tests positive with an 'at home kit'?

The testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. They must also remain at home if they receive a positive result from the 'at home kit' or if anybody in the household tests positive for Covid-19.



Potteries Educational Trust Head Office
City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College
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Chief Executive Officer. **Mark Kent**



The **rules around isolation following a positive test** remain the same. If a positive lateral flow test is returned you no longer need to follow this up with a PCR test, but you must isolate for 10 days from the date of that test result. We will still have to send close contacts home where they are identified, and they will have to isolate for 7 days. Work will be provided for any student forced to isolate through track and trace. This will be set through MS Teams and will be either an assignment or access to a live lesson. Only students who have been told to isolate, through track and trace, will be given access to this work as all other students must be in school.

Compulsory Mask Wearing in School

In addition to testing, the **wearing of masks when in any part of the building, including during lessons in classrooms, is now compulsory**. All students should bring two masks to school – one to wear and a spare. They should also **bring a plastic bag (sandwich bag or similar) in which they can store a used mask**. We fully appreciate that this will not be comfortable for staff or students but, whilst we are still vulnerable to the infection rate rising again, the government have made this a recommended part of reopening the school. The only exemptions to this are students with serious special needs or health conditions that are recognised in an Education Health Care Plan or similar. In the unlikely event that a student refuses to comply with these measures we will follow our normal behaviour protocols.

Students should wear the correct **full school uniform** on return, except for days they have PE lessons when they should come to school in their PE kit. Please ensure that students conform to school rules regarding hair, nails, footwear, and makeup (for further information please refer to our school behaviour policy).

Attendance at school is mandatory, as set out in government guidance. This will be from Wednesday 10th March when attendance will be monitored through the usual school processes. Students who have a serious medical condition, and who have been asked to shield, will continue to learn from home until they are told that it is safe to return to school. This will not affect their attendance as they will be able to access their schoolwork via teams. If you have any concerns about attendance, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Examination year groups and classes will be working towards a more formal final assessment. **Year 13** will have mock examinations from Monday 22nd March. **Year 12** will have an assessment week on the week beginning 19th April and the Year 12 and 13 **Progress Evening has been postponed until Thursday 6th May**.

Year 11 have been allocated a formal assessment window from 26th April to 17th May to allow teachers to gather further evidence towards the new Teacher Assessed Grades. We are still waiting for further information about how these will be moderated by the exam boards and this is still subject to change.

Years 9, 10 and 12 will all have a formal examination period in the final half of the summer term. We will send details to individual year groups once all these arrangements have been confirmed.

There is a light at the end of this tunnel, and we cannot wait to welcome our students back into school. I will continue to communicate information updates as we receive them and please be assured that we are doing everything we can to support your child through this challenging time. I know that many can't wait to be back but for some this may feel overwhelming. Please be assured that we are taking a cautious and stepped approach to help them to feel as safe as possible.

Our full risk assessment and guidelines are available on our school website:

<https://biddulphhigh.co.uk/information-on-covid-19/>

Please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01782 523977 or email office@biddulphhigh.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,



E C Robinson
Headteacher





Year	Monday 8 th March Testing of Years 11, 12 and 10 **Please bring light refreshments as the school is unable to provide any until Wednesday 10th March. Please ensure that you have a mask.	Tuesday 9 th March Testing of Years 9 and 10 **Please bring light refreshments as the school is unable to provide any until Wednesday 10th March. Please ensure that you have a mask.	Wednesday 10 th March	Thursday 11 th March and Monday 15 th March	Friday 12 th March and Tuesday 16 th March
Year 9	Work at home. Work set on MS Teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No registration Period 1-5 as normal 	Work set on Teams for the morning, P1-3. Return to school at 12.30pm. Students will not be admitted to school before 12.15pm and must enter through the front entrance ONLY. The Biddulph Moor Bus will be available. Students must go straight to form. School day will end at 3.15pm. The Biddulph Moor Bus will be available.	School open to all students as normal from 8.40am to 3.15pm. Our usual staggered end to the school day applies.	School open to all students as normal from 8.40am.	School open to all students. Year 9 testing in the afternoon.
Year 10	Work at home. Work set on MS Teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No registration Period 1-5 as normal 	Return to school at 8.40am. Students will not be admitted to school before 8.30am and must enter through the front entrance ONLY. The Biddulph Moor Bus will be available. Students must go straight to form. School day will end at 12.00pm. The Biddulph Moor Bus will be available. Work will be set on Teams for the afternoon.		School open to all students as normal from 8.40am.	School open to all students. Year 10 testing in the morning.
Year 11	Return to school at 8.40am. Students will not be admitted to school before 8.30am and must enter through the front entrance ONLY. The Biddulph Moor Bus will be available. Students must go straight to form. School day will end at 12.00pm. Buses will be available to return students home. Work will be set on Teams for the afternoon.	Work at home. Work set on MS Teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No registration Period 1-5 as normal 		School open to all students. Year 11 testing through the day.	School open to all students as normal from 8.40am.
Year 12	Work set on Teams for the morning, P1-3. Return to school at 12.30pm. Students will not be admitted to school before 12.15pm and must enter through the front entrance ONLY. The Biddulph Moor Bus will be available. Students must go straight to form. School day will end at 2.30pm. The Biddulph Moor Bus will be available.	Work at home. Work set on MS Teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No registration Period 1-5 as normal 		School open to all students. Year 12 testing through the day.	School open to all students as normal from 8.40am.
Year 13	Work set on Teams for the morning, P1-3. Return to school at 12.30pm. Students will not be admitted to school before 12.15pm and must enter through the front entrance ONLY. The Biddulph Moor Bus will be available. Students must go straight to form. School day will end at 2.30pm. The Biddulph Moor Bus will be available.	Work at home. Work set on MS Teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No registration Period 1-5 as normal 		School open to all students. Year 13 testing through the day.	School open to all students as normal from 8.40am.
Key worker and vulnerable groups	Y9 and Y10 will be in as normal. Y11 will join their peers in the morning and return to groups in the afternoon.	Y11, 12 and 13 will be in as normal. Y10 will join their peers in the morning and return to groups in the afternoon. Y9 will join their peers in the afternoon but work in their groups in the morning.		N/A	N/A

School will fully resume, as normal, from Wednesday 17th March. Students will be expected to test at home and report any positive cases immediately into school.