



# BIDDULPH HIGH SCHOOL

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



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Chief Executive Officer. **Mark Kent**

13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Our return to school has been calm and successful. Our students have continued to work well under challenging circumstances, and we have, so far, managed to avoid bubble closures in all year groups. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are reaching the end of their exam board assessment weeks and will spend the next two weeks completing any outstanding subject content or assessment work. Students in years 10 and 12 will be given their exam timetables towards the end of the week as their examinations will take place immediately following the half-term break.

**Following the announcement from the Prime Minister on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May, we will be changing our ruling about the wearing of masks in classrooms and communal areas of the school:**

- **From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May masks will become optional for our students in all areas of the building.** Students may still choose to wear a mask in class, and around the building, but this will no longer be enforced. We understand that many members of our community still feel vulnerable, or have vulnerable family members at home, and may choose to continue to wear their mask at all times. The school will continue to support this decision and will also be supporting our staff to do the same.
- Students using public transport (including the school bus service) need to wear a face covering unless they have an exemption.
- Members of staff and visitors to the school are still recommended to wear masks in communal areas and when in close proximity with students in the classroom.
- Please be reminded that we would recommend that all students carry a mask on their person just in case there is an incident that requires close contact.
- We still require our students to continue with lateral flow testing and will send testing kits home as we have been doing. This has helped to keep numbers of positive cases low within school and prevented us from having to close bubbles. We will continue to prioritise ventilation in classrooms, one-way systems, handwashing expectations, staggered exits/entrances and the bubble system remains in place.

As always, I value your continued support in all of this. We continue to work with our students in helping them to manage the effect that this has had on them and reinforce the positive messages around their learning. We are looking forward to being able to open up areas of the school after half-term so that students can experience more of our specialist facilities, especially our Year 9 students.

Please contact the school office if you require any further support or guidance.

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## School Uniform

We are incredibly proud of how smart our students look, something that is often commented on by visitors and members of the local community. As well as reflecting a clear identity for Biddulph High School, dressing smartly communicates with all stakeholders that what our students are doing in school is important.

Unfortunately, since returning from the most recent lockdown, we have noticed a gradual drop in standards. The full uniform policy for Years 9 -11 is published on our website <https://biddulphhigh.co.uk/school-uniform/> but I would like to remind you of some of the key points:

- Shoes should be of a formal style and black - not pumps or trainers
- Skirts should be tailored, knee length and charcoal grey
- Trousers should be tailored and charcoal grey
- On days where PE is timetabled, students may wear Biddulph High PE kit to school
- Hairstyles should not be extreme e.g. tramlines, unnatural colours
- No facial piercings - clear studs or plasters over the piercing are not acceptable
- The only jewellery worn should be a watch and studs on the lower ear lobe
- Clear or pale pink nail varnish can be worn - no gel, acrylic or excessively long nails
- Subtle make-up can be worn.

We enforce our uniform guidelines firmly but fairly and if students are not wearing the correct uniform, they will not be able to participate in lessons with their peers and will be educated in the 'Return to Learn' room (or equivalent, due to the Covid-19 restrictions). We would like to thank you for your support of our policy and the standards that we aim to maintain.

If you have any concerns about your child being able to follow the uniform policy, please contact the relevant Head of Year as soon as possible and we will be able to support you.

Yours faithfully,



E Robinson  
Headteacher

### If you need help and support, you can contact:

#### Childline:

- Call free on 0800 1111

#### YoungMinds:

- Parents Helpline: call free on 0808 802 5544
- If you are a young person experiencing a mental health crisis, you can text the YoungMinds Crisis Messenger for free, 24/7 support. Text YM to 85258.

#### Samaritans:

- Call free on 116 123

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