



BIDDULPH HIGH SCHOOL

Conway Road
Knypersley
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST8 7AR

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



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

3rd September 2021

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Welcome to the Autumn Term! We can't wait to have your child back in school and ready for, what we hope will be, a more normal year.

Year 9 students will start school on Monday 6th September and should come into school, through the main school gate where staff will be available to greet them, by 8.40am. Don't forget that we will also be taking photographs and students will be setting up on our biometric system (used to buy food and drink etc.). Please make sure that you have put money onto ParentPay if your child will be buying food and drink. A **Welcome Evening** has been scheduled for Year 9 parents and carers, in school, on **Thursday 9 September 2021 at 6.00pm**. Where possible, please limit the number of attendees to two. Please come directly to the school Hall. If you have any questions before this time, please do not hesitate to contact us at office@biddulphhigh.co.uk

Students in Years 10-11 will return to school on Tuesday 7th September and should be in school by 8.40am. Staff will be directing students to their correct entrance from the main gate. This will be a Reset and Induction Day and lessons will begin on Wednesday 8th September.

Students in Year 12 are expected to arrive to school by 10.50am on Tuesday 7th September where they will be met by staff and directed to their form room. **Students in Year 13 are expected to arrive to school by 11.50am** and go straight to the Sports Hall where their form tutor will meet them. This will be a Reset and Induction Day and lessons will begin on Wednesday 8th September.

On their return, we have been asked to conduct Lateral Flow tests for Covid -19 with students before they begin to mix in and around the school. This will be carried out in form groups during the first day. We will assume consent unless you contact the school, by email, to opt out of this. If you do NOT want your child to be tested, please email office@biddulphhigh.co.uk and use the title 'Opt Out' followed by a short email providing your child's full name, form group and the statement 'I do not want my child tested for Covid', if you have not already done so. We are used to testing at school and the new tests are a nose swab only which should make the process even quicker. It is a good way for us to ensure the wellbeing of all students. We would also ask your child to bring a mask to school. Masks are optional but, if at any point your child tests positive or is taken ill, staff will ask them to put on their mask to protect others.

From September, the following changes will be in place, in line with the new guidance:

Bubble system: It will no longer be necessary to keep children in year group bubbles. It means that there will no longer be a bubble system when we return to school in September for the start of the new academic year, as things currently stand.



Contact tracing: Schools will no longer be responsible for contact tracing. If your child tests positive for COVID-19, it will be your responsibility to provide information regarding your child's 'close contacts'

Self-isolation for children and young people: From Monday 16th August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. They will only need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test result, obtained through a PCR. As previously, we would request that students do not attend school if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19. We can also confirm that students self-isolating due to Covid-19 will still have access to robust and comprehensive remote learning opportunities while self-isolating. Please see the flow chart at the bottom of this letter.

Face coverings: Face coverings will no longer be mandatory for students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. However, if a member of staff or student wishes to wear a mask this is their choice. We will be continuing to ask parents to wear a mask whilst within our school grounds and we will ask a student to put a mask on if they are displaying symptoms.

Changing facilities: Students will now wear uniform and change for PE lessons. This enables us to deliver the full PE curriculum.

Our risk assessment will be updated to reflect the above. Although there will be changes as part of the easing of restrictions, as a school we will have outbreak management plans in place, as required by the Government, to ensure we are prepared to continue to operate if there is transmission of the virus in our school or the local community. These will mean that if the situation requires it, a bubble system or other measures may need to be temporarily reinstated in the future, and we must stress that the safety measures in place will be continually reviewed and assessed in accordance with Government and local guidance. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. As such, we will be continuing to encourage good hygiene including regular handwashing, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following Public Health England advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

To give your child the best possible start, please ensure that they are in the correct school uniform and bring the correct equipment with them. All details for this can be found on the school website. From Monday 13th September our school Library will be open for Years 9-11 Tuesday to Thursday until 4.00pm and the Sixth Form Study Room is available Monday to Thursday until 4.15pm and Fridays until 4.00pm. These are supervised facilities and great places to complete homework and independent study.

We know that this is an exciting time for many of our students, but for some there will understandably be nerves. I would like to reassure you that our staff are well-known for their care of our young people and I am sure that, by the end of next week, all our students will have fully settled back into school life. We look forward to seeing them all.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs E Robinson
Headteacher



Do I need to self-isolate?

