

Headteacher update - 13

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support again this week, on Wednesday we invited HCC Public Health into school to check that we are taking all appropriate actions to minimise the risk of COVID-19.

The subsequent report confirmed that on visiting there was an immediate awareness of the high level of COVID secure measures implemented, to ensure the prioritisation of health and safety to students and staff in the school. There were no additional measures that were recommended, which is reassuring to know that we are effectively reducing the risks in the school.

They also confirmed that the management of positive cases, method for identifying close contacts and the plan that is in place for responding to a person with suspected COVID-19 are highly effective response practices.

To update you on our current staffing levels, we still have a high number of staff absent from school next week, so we will need to continue with our rota as planned.

December 2020 rota of year groups not in school

Monday December	7 th	Tuesday December	8 th	Wednesday December	9 th	Thursday December	10 th	Friday December	11 th
Year 7		Year 8		Year 9		Year 11		Year 10	

Monday December	14 th	Tuesday December	15 th	Wednesday December	16 th	Thursday December	17 th	Friday December	18 th
Year 10		Year 9		Year 11		Year 8		All year groups in school 12.30 finish	

We are hopeful that we will see an improvement on our staffing levels for the last week of term, we will keep you updated.

We have had a few communications questioning why we do not switch to online learning for all students, particularly for the last week of term. We have attached a letter from HCC Public Health that articulates that it is not in the gift of individual schools to do this, the government is being very clear that it is not a decision that a school can take. Where some schools around the country have taken this decision, they are being directed to reconsider. The attached letter provides information on a range of important matters.

Now that we are out of lockdown and in tier 2, we have attached an informative poster outlining the restrictions of Tier 2 which might be helpful to you.

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Summer 2021 Exams

By now you might have seen/heard the government's latest announcement about the package of measures to address the loss of learning and teaching this year, and the contingency plans for summer 2021 exams.

We wanted to share [these new measures](#) with you. They include:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with 2020
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A-levels, to help them focus their revision
- exam aids – like formula sheets – provided in some exams to give students more confidence and reduce the amount of information they need to memorise
- contingency exams – held shortly after the main exam series – so students can sit a paper if they miss all their assessments in a subject because of illness or self-isolation.

These new measures complement the existing changes for next summer which you may recall include:

- reduced content in many subjects
- a delay to the start of exams and changes to the timetable.

There will also be adaptations to vocational and technical qualifications to make sure there's parity with general qualifications.

We will continue to update you if and when any further announcements are made.

Covid Symptom Study

As we mentioned last week the [Covid Symptom Study](#) was launched by Health Science company Zoe and Kings College London and is the world's largest ongoing study of COVID-19. Barnwell school has partnered with the study to help us make sure we are doing all we can to keep our community as safe as possible. We are becoming part of the world's largest scientific dataset of COVID-19 in children and invite you to join us in this. Attached to this newsletter is a letter with more details and our unique school code.

Reporting COVID cases

During the term, it is essential that we as a school are notified of any students that test positive for COVID-19 or have to self-isolate as they have been in close contact to a confirmed case.

If your child tests positive for coronavirus at any point, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with public health and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and need to self-isolate. During school hours, you should phone the school, and out of school hours, it is necessary to email communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk.

Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test.

Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you are not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please do not send children back to school if any of the following apply:

- they have symptoms of COVID-19

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- they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at half-term activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- they have not completed the full 14-day isolation period requested

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

As ever, could we please ask you and your families to do their part in ensuring our community remains safe and our school continues to operate fully. Please follow Government guidelines and reinforce school expectations at home



Christmas Jumper Day-11th December

We will once again be supporting Save the Children with Christmas Jumper day on Friday 11th December. This is a day when students and staff can choose to replace their normal jumper with a Christmas one, all other uniform rules still apply.

Reminder: Free School Meals

Hertfordshire County Council is teaming up with the Family Food Trust, a government backed charity, to help them to deliver food vouchers to children and young people in receipt of free school meals during the winter school holidays. This follows recent government announcements of the COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme, part of this funding will be allocated to providing food vouchers to entitled families this Christmas holiday and in February 2021 half-term.

A total of £30 per entitled child will be provided for the Christmas holidays (10 days) and £15 per child for the February 2021 half-term (5 days). Families will receive support for each of these holidays separately, before the end of each term.

The electronic vouchers for food and groceries can be used in four major supermarkets (Asda, Morrisons, Tesco and Sainsbury's) and will be sent to families directly by email or if necessary, they can be printed, and we will distribute them.

The school, Hertfordshire County Council and the Family Food Trust will need to access and share personal data of pupils and students who are entitled to free school meals to enable us to provide food vouchers directly to eligible families. This data will include the name and contact details of each pupil/student and parent/carer and the name of the School they attend. All information shared will be used solely for the purpose of distributing food vouchers; no personal information will be shared with any other partner or third party, and data will only be retained for the length of time of the food voucher support offer. Data will be stored and transferred securely from your school to Hertfordshire County Council and then to the Family Food Trust. **Please ensure the School has your up to date contact details.**

If you do not wish your child(ren) to be included in this voucher scheme or if you have any concerns please contact Hertfordshire County Council at: educationteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk. For further information about Hertfordshire County Council's Privacy Policy please click [here](#).

Families who do not qualify for free school meals but are worried about their finances or having enough food this winter can contact HertsHelp, email info@hertshelp.net, call 0300 123 4044 or visit www.hertshelp.net

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REMINDER: COVID-19 Webpage

If you have any queries about COVID-19 and Barnwell School, please visit our designated COVID-19 webpage. This page has information regarding our COVID-19 procedures as well as our [school contingency plans](#), information guides and all previous parent/carer communication. <https://www.barnwellschool.co.uk/covid-19-info-2/>

Reminder: Barnwell Community Clothing and Food Bank

In these unprecedented times if you feel you could do with some support in the form of a contribution from our Community clothing and food bank then please do not hesitate to email us in confidence at communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk.

Reminder: PE Uniform

Only Barnwell school hoodies are allowed to be worn with the PE uniform, students can wear their school jumper or blazer over their PE uniform during the day.

REMINDER: Parent/Carer meetings

As we have been advised to reduce the number of visitors coming into school, we would remind you that meetings will continue to be held using Microsoft Teams, Zoom or conducted via a phone call.

REMINDER: Communications

Could we please remind parents and carers that due to the current structure of the school day and increased duties, on occasion, staff will not be able to return communication within the school day. A reminder of the school communication protocols set up last year can be found by clicking [this link](#).

If you would like clarification regarding any school matters, please do not hesitate to get in contact via communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

Thank you once again for your support and have a lovely weekend.

Mr Fitzpatrick
Executive Headteacher

Mr Roberts
Head of School