



PRINCIPAL:
VICE PRINCIPAL:

MR S GODDEN
MR D PALMER

15th April 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are enjoying a restful holiday period, and have been able to safely take advantage of the latest stage of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown. I am sure many of us will have greatly appreciated the opportunity to reconnect with friends and loved ones in outdoor spaces. As we approach the start of term, I would like to draw your attention to the following updates and relevant information:

Lateral Flow Testing before returning to school

Thank you to those who have continued to submit asymptomatic LFT results via the online form (<https://forms.gle/yMJxPnXVZPqEG9m38>). As we are able to take advantage of increased contact with others, albeit outside, we would like to stress the importance of pupils completing Lateral Flow Testing over the holidays. In addition, we would ask that ALL pupils complete a LFT on Sunday 18th April before returning to school – this is the best way to ensure we have minimal disruptions in relation to positive cases of COVID-19. Please note, this does however remain optional, and all pupils should return to school on Monday **unless** they are isolating / have returned a positive test result.

Face Coverings

The Department for Education has updated the guidance in relation to the wearing of face coverings in schools. However, the updates do not remove the recommendation that pupils should wear face coverings whilst in communal areas at school, including in the classroom. Therefore, the school position on face coverings remains unchanged and pupils are expected to wear face coverings at all times. The following exemptions continue to apply:

- If a pupil is exempt on medical grounds (in which case parents/carers must inform the school and pupils will be asked to wear a discreet badge)
- When outside at break & lunch
- When eating/drinking in a designated canteen
- When instructed to remove a face covering by a member of staff to enable engagement in a lesson, for example within PE.

Uniform

We adopted a supportive approach to uniform in the Spring term, and recognise that many families may have experienced difficulties purchasing uniform during lockdown. As shops are now re-open, we expect all pupils to return to school in suitable school uniform, including school shoes. If a pupil has PE, they can continue to attend in their PE kit on that day. However, pupils **must** wear their school sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms **must** be plain black or navy blue. If uniform is proving to be a particular challenge for you, please let the school know via email so we can support you with this (pastoral@trinity.bexley.sch.uk).



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In addition, as the weather continues to improve, pupils will no longer be permitted to wear coats inside the school building. Of course there will be occasions when this may be appropriate given the unpredictability of the weather, and in such instances staff will allow pupils to wear a coat in the lesson if it is necessary to do so.

Timings of the School Day / Acts of Worship

It is imperative that pupils are on time for school each and every day, including for Acts of Worship on the designated days for each year group. Please see the attached document to remind yourself of the timings for your child. Poor punctuality will not be tolerated.

We are very pleased to report that, following many years of campaigning, a Zebra crossing is currently being installed outside of the main school entrance. This will make it far safer for pupils crossing a very busy Erith Road, and we are extremely relieved that this is finally happening. Please note that due to the ongoing works, there are temporary traffic lights outside of the school and this may well impact journey times, and you may need to plan accordingly.

Returning to 'normal'...

We have already undertaken a huge amount of work in preparation for the return to normal for all of the Trinity community, and are optimistic that this can happen in the second half of the Summer term assuming the Government roadmap continues on the current path. Whilst there have been a vast number of challenges for us all over the past year, and we thank families and pupils for their relentless support, there have also been a number of positives that have come out of the amended operating procedures we have adapted - for example, we have received significant positive feedback about online events and parent consultations. Shortly after the start of term, we will be asking pupils, parents and staff for their thoughts and opinions re: what has worked well, and what we should consider keeping as we move forwards. Whilst we will not be able to satisfy everyone, we recognise that there will be some changes that are beneficial and therefore will remain for the longer term. More details will follow.

All of the staff at the school look forward to welcoming pupils back to what we are certain will be a fruitful and productive Summer term!

Yours sincerely

Mr Simon Godden
Principal