



Friday 16th April 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I hope that you and your families and friends have managed to have a happy and relaxed holiday. I hope too that you have been able to make the most of the recent easing of some key lockdown restrictions. The weather has most certainly helped to support some much-needed social time with those we have missed so much over the last few months.

In preparation for our return to school on Monday 19th April, please can we enlist your support with the details outlined below.

Update on face coverings

Following on from the update in our [end of Term 4 newsletter](#), the government have since confirmed that face coverings in schools and colleges will need to continue to be worn in secondary school and college classrooms as a precautionary measure.

They have advised that they expect to review this requirement of face coverings in classrooms, or in other communal areas at step 3 of their roadmap. This is expected to be no earlier than Monday 17th May. It is at this point that the next stage in the lifting of restrictions will be confirmed, following a review of the latest data on infection and vaccination rates. We will of course ensure that once these announcements in mid-May are confirmed, we update and communicate to you our policy and risk assessments dependent on the recommendations.

It remains imperative that as a school community we continue to do all that we can to mitigate the risk of the transmission of COVID. This is not only vital whilst we are all in our school environment, however, as ever, it also includes being vigilant and considerate of our fellow students, staff and members of the public when journeying to and from Beacon Academy as well.

Home testing: Sunday 18th April

Prior to our return and as part of our ongoing home testing programme, please could we ask **all home testing students** to complete a lateral flow test on **Sunday 18th April**.

If this test is negative and your child feels healthy and well and they are **not** displaying any of the following symptoms, they will be able to return to school on Monday:

1. New and continuous cough (coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours, if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
2. High temperature (hot to touch on chest or back).
3. Loss of or change to sense of smell or taste.

If however the test is positive or your child is displaying any of the above symptoms, please do not send your child back to school, isolate the rest of the household immediately and book and access a confirmatory PCR test. Please report this positive test to us at Covid-19@beacon-academy.org. You will also need to inform us of any close contacts that your child may have had from Beacon Academy up to 48 hours prior to them testing positive via their lateral flow test or developing symptoms. If you require any further guidance, please refer to [this asymptomatic flow chart](#) on our dedicated [COVID-19 Information webpage](#).

Equipment and uniform

Please remember that we require our students to continue to be equipped daily with their own water bottle, hand sanitiser, pack of tissues and face covering. Please can we also request that our [school uniform policy](#) is fully adhered to, and that haircuts and colours are appropriate for our return. This will all be checked as usual during tutor time on Monday morning.

Enjoy the remainder of the holiday and we will look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 19th April. With ongoing thanks for your continued support, respect, care and unity.

Anna Robinson
Headteacher