

The Bishop's Stortford High School

Parental Bulletin



Wednesday, 08 September 2021

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Whole School

It has been great to welcome all the students back over the last week. They have generally made an excellent start, arriving with the right attitude to learning. We have been reiterating the standards and expectations and the students have responded really well. We are in the process of launching our extra-curricular timetable for this term, so please encourage your son/daughter to get involved as much as possible and take advantage of the great opportunities on offer.

Through a combination of COVID-19 mass testing at the start of term and testing carried out by students at home since, we have experienced a number of cases of students testing positive. The majority of these have been in the sixth form, though we have had cases in each year group, which is why we took the decision to move our Year 12 Standards Evening and the Year 13 Parent Information Evening online this week. At this stage, we expect the remaining Standards Evenings (Years, 9, 10 and 11) to be held in person in the school hall, though we would kindly ask all parents to carry out a home test prior to attending and not attend if they either test positive or are displaying any symptoms. If necessary, these events may also be held online and parents would be informed in advance.

It is vital that **all students** (Years 7 to 13) carry out a home test for COVID-19 at least twice a week. All students received a new box of test kits on Monday. This will definitely help to reduce the spread of infection and also reduce the likelihood of us having to re-introduce some of the measures that were in place for large parts of last year. In addition, all young people aged 16 or above are eligible to receive a vaccine, so do please encourage your child to book a vaccine appointment if they haven't already done so. The more they can individually do to reduce transmission, the less impact the virus will have on learning. If we continue to see significant numbers of positive cases, we will very likely see the return of certain protection measures e.g. face masks in school, cancellation of extra-curricular activities, limited practical work etc. We hope to be able to avoid these disruptive measures, though will implement them where necessary and keep parents informed. Please see more details below on PCR tests and informing the school of a positive case.

Mr Reeve
Headteacher

Coronavirus - Asymptomatic Home Testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. All students have been given home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing kits and we encourage them to take a home LFD twice weekly before school on Monday (or Sunday evening) and Thursday (or Wednesday evening).

The current guidelines suggest that this advice will be in place at least until the end of September and possibly longer, dependent on the circumstances prevalent at the time.

Students who have contracted COVID-19 do not need to undertake Lateral Flow tests for 90 days. However, if they do get COVID-19 symptoms, you should immediately book a PCR test.

Coronavirus - When to book a PCR test

Anyone with a positive LFD test result and/or who is displaying symptoms of Covid19 will need to:

- self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance](#)
- [book a further test](#) (a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test) to confirm the result

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Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within the 2 days following the positive LFD result, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and students can return to school as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Please complete the following form [Covid19 Reporting](#) online if your son/daughter has tested positive. Although the school is not currently responsible for track and trace, the Local Authority are still tracking cases in schools and are asking for this information. If you do not have the PCR test result when you are completing the form, please complete the [PCR Update form](#) when you receive the test result.

Positive result - If a student has a positive result from a PCR test, they should self-isolate immediately and continue to isolate for at least 10 days. NHS Test and Trace should contact you or your son/daughter and advise on the isolation period. Close contacts and everyone in the household or support bubble will also be advised to book a PCR test.

If your son/daughter is isolating but well enough, please ask them to check Satchel1/Show My Homework for work that will be set by their teachers. You do not need to update absence reporting unless your son/daughter is not fit to return at the end of their isolation period

If your son/daughter receives a positive PCR result, please **DO NOT take any LFD or PCR tests for 90 days** as this may return a false positive resulting in a further mandatory period of isolation.

Negative result - Where a student has a negative result from a PCR test, it means the test did not find coronavirus (COVID-19) and they can return to school.

From Monday 16th August, people who are double jabbed or aged under 18 are no longer legally required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. If a student is advised to obtain a PCR test as a close contact, they do not need to isolate whilst waiting for the results **unless they are showing symptoms**.

For any queries or absences regarding Covid19, please email covid19@tbshs.org .

MyEd App

The MyEd App should be used for the reporting of absences and medical appointments only. Please send any other enquiries to office@tbshs.org for your enquiry to be forwarded to the relevant person.

Collection at the end of the school day

A polite reminder that no student should be collected at the end of the school day via the banjo exit on London Road. If collecting students via the Park Lane exit please show adequate consideration for the neighbouring houses by arriving just before the end of the school day and switching off engines whilst waiting. This area is very congested at this time so please park respectfully and remind pupils to be aware of their road safety.

Homework Timetable

Please click [here](#) to access the Homework Timetable for the academic year 2021-2022

Maths Clinic – Open for ALL year groups

Any student wishing to get some help with maths homework or revision for maths tests, can now come to Maths Clinic where they can ask any maths teacher for help.

Maths clinic runs on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes at 1:30pm in Room 16.

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Maths Equipment Yr7-11

All students should have a **scientific calculator, protractor and a pair of compasses** in addition to the other equipment expected of them (e.g. pen/pencil/ruler etc).

We recommend **Casio fx-85GTX classwiz calculators** and these are available to buy at school from the front office at a cost of £10.

Protractors and compasses are available to purchase for a small fee at the library.

Parent helpers wanted in the library

The library is looking for library helpers! Would you be able to spare a few hours of your day to help in our busy school library? No previous experience needed!

If you are interested, please complete the form below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/57hFbFiX5D>

Free School Meals

Did you know that Hertfordshire County Council could save you over £450 every year? Your child could get a free school meal, worth over £450 per child per year if you receive any of the following:

Your child can get a free school meal if you receive any of the following:

- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseekers Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than **£16,190** a year)
- **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- **Universal Credit** (with annual earned income of no more than **£7,400** after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Apply today if you receive any of these benefits. It takes **5 mins** and in most cases we can tell you straightaway if your child can get free meals at school.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx#year3>

Have your National Insurance number or Home Office number to hand when you apply.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until March 2023, or until they finish their current phase of schooling (primary or secondary), if that's after the end of March 2023.

Don't miss out, apply now!

The benefits of applying online include:

- It's quick and easy to do – most online applications take about five minutes to complete. Please make sure you have your national insurance number to hand.
- It can be done whenever it suits you, with no need for face-to-face or telephone contact
- In most cases, you won't have to provide paper proof of benefit

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- You won't have to reapply for free school meals every year
- Your child will get their free school meals without delay
- You can apply for other benefits that you may qualify for at the same time

If you do not have access to the internet at home, you can obtain access and support at any of the following locations:

- Public Libraries
- UK Online Centres
- TBSHS – Please call Reception for assistance

For more information or assistance with your application Visit www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals Or Call the customer service centre on 0300 123 4048 (8am-8pm Monday to Friday, 9am-

4pm Saturday).

School Meal Prices and Menus

The price of a standard 2-course meal is £2.75, menus are available on the TBSHS website. The school currently offers break and lunch options.

The school has an upper limit of £6 on the amount of money that can be spent in one day. This will mean that your child cannot buy excessive amounts of food that may be being passed on to others. If you would like this amount changed, please call the school or email finance@tbshs.org to amend the amount up or down.

As I am sure that you are aware, there are a number of logistical issues affecting availability and deliveries, as a result, menus may change at short notice.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the school will not be able to accept cash payments for any reason and the cash loader in school will not be active. If you are unable to utilise ParentPay, please ensure that you contact the finance department (finance@tbshs.org Tel: 01279 869521). Your assistance in keeping the school cash free is appreciated.

Please ensure that your child always has sufficient funds on their accounts for lunch as overdrafts will not be available. Any parent/guardian in financial difficulty should contact the school.

Publishing Houses and Supporting the School

If any parent has a connection with any Educational books Publishing Houses please contact rachel.engel@tbshs.org as many organisations offer additional discounts to schools where parents work in the company. Similarly, if parents are connected to other organisations where the school can take an advantage of a discount, please contact me.

The School appreciates all offers of sponsorship and support from parents, if you feel you can help support the TBSHS in any way, please contact rachel.engel@tbshs.org and I will pass the information to the relevant members of staff. Offers of support for assistance to help us improve the marketing the School, sixth form or fundraising would be appreciated.

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Sponsors for Whole School Production

Taking place in November, this year's whole school production will be the exciting, high-energy and glitter ball-spinning musical extravaganza *Disco Inferno*.

If you would like to support the show by way of advertising your business/services in the show programme, do please get in touch; individual supporters also welcome. Half page or full page adverts are available. For more information please email claire.jonas@tbshs.org

Supporting Links Workshops

Alongside our usual Parenting Courses, Supporting Links are pleased to be offering the following 7 workshops this coming Autumn Term. These are open to parents and carers of children with ASD and/or ADHD across Hertfordshire, funded by the Local Authority.

Talking ASD/ADHD: Anxiety and Stress - 20th October or 4th November 21
Talking ASD/ADHD: Responding to Anger - 23rd September or 9th November
21 Talking ASD/ADHD: The Teenage Years - 11th October or 9th December
21 Talking ASD/ADHD: Staying Safe Online - 16th November 21

Parents can self-refer and book places via Eventbrite.

www.supportinglinks.co.uk

Sixth Form

Year 12 – Standards Evening

Congratulations to our Year 12 students who have made an excellent start to their Sixth Form careers and thank you for your attendance at last night's presentations. We hope that you found the sessions informative. Materials, including a detailed Academic Guide, have already been distributed by email to students and parent/carers. **Mr R Stark**

Year 13 – Information Evening – Thursday 9th September – Zoom – 7pm

We look forward to welcoming all Year 13 students and their parent/carers to this important event on Thursday 9th September at 7pm. Detailed joining instructions will be distributed by email at 6.30pm on the night. More information is in the invitation sent out last week: [Yr13 Standards Evening Invitation](#) **Mr R Stark**

Prospective Parents Evening – Thursday 23rd September – Yr12 & Yr13 Helpers

Thursday 23rd September is the school's Prospective Parents' Evening for potential Year 7 students. **All Year 13 students are expected to conduct tours** around the school for the families who visit us. Year 12s will be recruited by individual Departments to support Year 7s students within subject classrooms. Other volunteers from Year 12 will be needed as tour guides. If you could be ensuring that your son/daughter are aware of this event and that they reorganise any prior commitments. Students will be required to be in school between from 5pm and the evening will finish by 9pm. A letter with further details will be sent shortly. **Mr R Stark**

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Year 11

Year 11 Berlin History Trip

All Year 11 Historians should have received a letter about the Berlin Trip which we are hoping to run next February half term. This is a great opportunity to visit a fascinating city as well as to revise some of the key GCSE topics associated with both Weimar & Nazi Germany and the Cold War.

I would be very grateful if any remaining replies could be handed in by the end of this week (Friday 17th Sept). Many thanks. Mr J Dickens

Year 11 Adventure Learning Trip

Please note that the approximate return to school time for the trip on 16th September to the Secret Nuclear Bunker has been amended to **4.15pm**, apologies for any inconvenience caused. If you are yet to give consent, pay or sign the disclaimer for the trip then please do so ASAP. Kind regards Natalie Miles Assistant Headteacher

Year 9

Year 9 Standards Evening

Please [click here](#) for details of the Year 9 Standards Evening

English novels/guided reading books.

If there are any current students in **year 8 and 9** who still have English novels/guided reading books (because they were off at the end of the summer term, for example), please could they return them to Mrs Eagle in room 65 from Tuesday of next week.

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Careers, Opportunities & Competitions

There are many more opportunities for Years 12 & 13 in the 6th Form Bulletin - issued every 2 weeks by Mrs Price.



Please note, students can find the careers section of the parent bulletin in the 'Others' area of the Q Pool File

Click [here](#) for this week's Careers News

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Sports

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The PSA are now able to accept contactless card payments for food & drink at Jobbers Wood.



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PTFA - TBSHS Face Masks

EXCLUSIVE TBSHS PROTECTIVE FACE MASKS



AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE NOW

£5

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO PAY:

Via ParentPay - Students can collect mask from school reception.

Or, students can purchase masks from school reception (*Exact money only please, no change given*)

For further information please click [here](#).