



**Headteacher:** Ms L Cowley  
New Road Bourne End  
Buckinghamshire SL8 5BW  
**T:** 01628 819022  
**F:** 01628 810689

**E:** [beaoffice@E-ACT.org.uk](mailto:beaoffice@E-ACT.org.uk)  
[www.bourneendacademy.e-act.org.uk](http://www.bourneendacademy.e-act.org.uk)

25<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Return to the Academy September 2021**

I hope my message finds you safe and well and you have had a restful summer holidays. I am writing to provide an update on a few specific areas in preparation for September.

### **New appointments**

We would like to announce Ms Arifa Mohamed has been appointed to lead the inclusion department at BEA. As SENDCO Ms Mohamed will lead the department to ensure that we continue to improve our offer to all students. Ms Mohamed brings a wealth of experience from mainstream and specialist settings, working as a SENDCO in Meadow High School as well as transforming the SEND department at Queensmead and Barnhill secondary school in West London. I recognise that we have had a period of change within our inclusion department over the past year and I want to reassure you that inclusion is an absolute priority that I have heavily focussed on since my appointment as Headteacher.

We are also very excited to welcome Ms Carina Dell back to Bourne End Academy, Ms Dell will be supporting our excellent personal development program and leading our Sixth Form with Mr Raja.

### **Bourne End Academy site update**

Our site team have been working incredibly hard over the summer break to refurbish many of our classrooms. Following the upgrade to our Year 7 and 8 teaching spaces this year we have now upgraded the flooring, teacher whiteboards and interactive whiteboards in all Year 9 and 10 and Sixth Form classrooms. We have also built a new Year 11 teaching space with 5 new purpose-built classrooms ready for Year 11 in September.

### **Covid restrictions in education**

From the 16<sup>th</sup> August the legal requirement to self-isolate for contacts of a positive case will end for everyone aged under 18, and for adults who have been fully vaccinated. This means that from the autumn term, only those who test positive will need to self-isolate. NHS test and trace will carry out contact tracing in all education settings rather than being run by the school or college. Those identified as close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test, and only need to isolate if they test positive. Children must self-isolate if they have symptoms of Covid or a positive test result.

Protective measures will remain in place for the autumn term in all education settings including practicing good hygiene, ventilation, and regular testing until the end of September to strike a balance between relaxing restrictions and minimising further disruption to children's education. Two onsite tests should be taken by each secondary academy on return, followed by twice weekly testing at home. The Government will review testing requirements by the end of September.

In line with measures for wider society, the Government will be recommending that face coverings will no longer be necessary in any education setting and social distancing will no longer be necessary, including in schools and colleges.

## **Developing Future Leaders**



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### Key implications for Bourne End Academy:

- Only students who display Covid symptoms or test positive will need to self-isolate.
- Twice weekly LFT home testing will continue for September as a minimum.
- Pupils should complete two onsite tests at the start of the Autumn term. See plan below.
- Face coverings are no longer required to be worn but we respect any individual's choice to wear a mask.
- Whilst social distancing and bubbles are no longer necessary, we will continue to provide students with year groups areas for lessons, break and lunchtimes (except for specialised teaching spaces). These areas will continue to be supervised by the head of year and pastoral team.
- Students should continue to wear their PE to the academy on the day they have a PE lesson.

### Onsite testing at the start of term

Following the latest Government announcement, we have finalised our plans for the return of pupils back after the summer holidays.

We are required to test all students at an on-site asymptomatic test site (ATS) on return following the summer holidays. This approach is based on the latest public health advice and will help us break chains of transmission after the summer holidays when students may have been mixing with lots of people. We know that on-site testing participation rates amongst students are much higher than when testing at home, so this is the most effective way to identify as many positive cases as possible at the start of the autumn term. This should support us having a disruptive free rest of the term.

We completed the first set of onsite testing very successfully back in March 2021 and we have reflected on this system to improve our processes for this September:

- Year 7 have not completed regular lateral flow testing. Therefore, there will be a separate area for Year 7 testing with increased staff to support students complete this process. Please also see the specific guidance for year 7 students below.
- Although we have provided a rough timeslot for students (see below) if students can only visit our site at a specific time within the testing hours they are welcome to do so. This allows for siblings to come together for testing or any students that are sharing transport or travelling to the academy together.
- If students are not able to complete an onsite LFT test we would strongly encourage students to take a home LFT test before returning to the academy. These should be reported using the link on our website [click here](#).

The following plan applies to all students who have consented to onsite testing.

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>1<sup>st</sup> lateral flow test – Year 7-13</b> <b>Location:</b> School Gym, please enter the school via the top gate. <i>Students should visit the academy site for the test and leave immediately after the test.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 7: 9:00-10:30am</li><li>• Year 8 and 9: 10:00am -12:00pm</li><li>• Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form: 12:30-3:00pm</li></ul>
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	<b>Start of term for Year 7 and 12</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Start of term for Year 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> lateral flow test Year 7-9</b> Students will be escorted to the testing centre throughout the school day.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> lateral flow test – Year 10-13</b> Students will be escorted to the testing centre throughout the school day

### How will testing work?

Our students and staff will be offered what are known as lateral flow device tests.

These devices can help identify people who have high levels of the virus but may not be showing any symptoms. They are quick and convenient, allowing results to be delivered in under 30 minutes.

The tests will be administered by trained personnel and will be carried out in line with our strict safety measures, which include social distancing, good hand and respiratory hygiene and keeping academy spaces well ventilated.

Please bear in mind that we do not yet have the full guidance on testing, which will be shared with you as soon as we have it. For more information on the lateral flow device test.

### **Are the tests compulsory?**

Whilst participation is optional, we recommend that students and staff are tested as figures show that one in four people who have COVID-19 never display any symptoms but may be infectious.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread, keep our community safe and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but we would strongly encourage everyone to take it.

### **Next steps**

If you have previously provided consent for your child to be test this will remain. If your child is in Year 7 or you have not previously consented to onsite testing you must complete this online consent form. Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. [Click here](#) for a short video of the process.

**[Please click here to complete the online consent form](#)**

### **What if a pupil tests positive?**

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' as soon as possible. You can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### **What happens if the test is negative?**

Pupils will be expected to attend the physical school. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

As always, please get in touch with any questions or concerns regarding testing via our [Contact Us](#).

Please also keep an eye on your emails for our Bourne End Academy academic year 2021-22 parent and carer information pack, which will detail all aspects of the academy including key reminders for the start of term, as well as individual year group letters.

If your child is in Year 7 and Year 12 we will be running a Burnham Bus service on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Departure will be at 7.45am from the old BPA site and the return bus will depart at 3pm.

I'm really looking forward to welcoming all our students back for our 2021-2022 academic year.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Louise Cowley'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'L' and 'C'.

Louise Cowley  
Headteacher