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December 2021

Changes to the Start of Term Arrangements in January

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have already written to you about the teacher training day that is taking place on Tuesday January 4th but now need to update you further on the start of term arrangements. These changes link to the timings of our tutor programme within the school day and the need to set up on-site testing for secondary age students before they return to school in January.

Changes to the time of the tutor period

As of January 5th, all students will begin the school day with a tutor period. This will enable us as a school to ensure that all students meet their tutor at the start of each day and are equipped and prepared for their learning for the rest of the school day. The start time of the students' day will not change. Students are required to be on school site at 8.20am, in their allocated zones, ready to enter the building. We will be explaining this to all students on their first day back in January and issuing them a new timetable to reflect the changes. Students are expected to attend school every day in the correct uniform, bring a school bag, their planner and the necessary equipment for lessons, including PE Kit. A link to the uniform expectations can be found here [Beckfoot Oakbank School - Uniform](#).

Asymptomatic Covid-19 Testing: January 2022

Following recent Government announcements, the DfE are asking secondary schools to test all students at an on-site asymptomatic test site on their return to school in January. This approach is based on the latest public health advice and will help break chains of transmission in education settings after the Christmas holiday when students may have been mixing with lots of people. The programme will involve students being tested once in school; after this, students should continue to test twice a week at home. Lateral flow test kits will be given to all students when they are tested at school so this can happen.

We would strongly encourage you to support this testing programme so that we can find asymptomatic cases of Covid-19, try to break the chain of transmission and keep our vulnerable community safe. The more students we can test, the fewer cases of Covid-19 we will have in school as we go into the new term and approach exam season.

Students are not required to wear school uniform when coming into school for their test and should return home straight afterwards. So long as a negative result is received, students will return to start school properly the following day.



Cont'd.....

Headteacher: Tina Smith
CEO, Beckfoot Trust: Shirley Watson
Chair of Academy Trustees: John Winkley

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Please see the table below that shows, for each year group, the date of the test and the date your child will actually start school. ***All students are expected to return to school on this date, whether they have participated in testing or not (unless they have had a positive test or are currently displaying symptoms/isolating).***

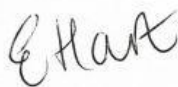
You will be notified by text of the time your child needs to attend for their test.

Tests will be carried out in the dance studio, which is within the sports hall, so students should enter on foot via either the Ingrow Lane entrance or their usual entrance into school. Parents and carers should not come with students into the sports hall as members of staff will take care of them. Parents will only be notified if there is a positive test result. We hope that the testing will take no more than a few minutes.

Year group	Test Date	Return to School
Post 16	Tuesday 4 th January	Wednesday 5 th January 8.20am
Year 11	Tuesday 4 th January	Wednesday 5 th January 8.20am
Year 7	Tuesday 4 th January	Wednesday 5 th January 8.20am
Year 8	Wednesday 5 th January	Thursday 6 th January 8.20am
Year 9	Wednesday 5 th January	Thursday 6 th January 8.20am
Year 10	Wednesday 5 th January	Thursday 6 th January 8.20am

We wish you and your families a safe, healthy holiday.
With many thanks for your support.

Yours faithfully,

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Tina Smith
Headteacher