



Birchwood High School

your dreams, your future, our challenge

19 April 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you have all had a restful and 'bug-free' Easter. We are fully open to all year groups tomorrow. You will recall that Covid infections - particularly amongst staff - were relatively high prior to Easter which led us to partially close for younger year groups. As we start off the Summer Term, without the availability of free LFTs, I thought it would be useful to clarify our position for students and staff:

- **Students:** Thank you for your support throughout the last two years, keeping your child at home if they are symptomatic, doing a LFT and informing the school if positive. From now on we cannot expect you to test your child as LFTs are no longer freely available. DfE guidance now is that children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and can go back to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend. If you are able to do a LFT test and there is a positive test result, the advice now is that your child will have to isolate for only 3 days.
- **School lunches:** Unfortunately, over the Easter holidays, a fan in our storage freezer broke which has necessitated the disposal of a large quantity of food and so the café can only offer a more limited service for the remainder of this week. Jacket potatoes will be the main hot meal tomorrow (Wednesday) and sausages and mash/cheese and tomato quiches will be the main hot meal on Thursday. There will be no Pasta King or chicken wraps for the remainder of this week. Although a selection of sandwiches will be available and we should have enough supplies to meet demand, you may wish to make alternative arrangements in terms of a packed lunch while the café is getting back up to speed. We will ensure that students who are entitled to free school meals will be fed. We will keep you informed.
- **Staff:** DfE guidance is that staff return to follow their own school's Absence from Work Policy. Our staff have some spare LFTs and will test if they are symptomatic. If they have a positive test result, we will ask that the member of staff stays off school for 5 days. This will help keep spread down as well as help us track infection rates. There will come a time when we do not have spare LFT tests and I hope that the warmer summer weather will mean that rates naturally come down.

We will keep our usual array of hygiene measures in place which will help keep general viral and bacterial infection rates as low as possible at school.

Yours sincerely

Chris Ingate

Dr Chris Ingate
Principal

Principal - Dr Chris Ingate

Registered office - Parsonage Lane • Bishop's Stortford • Hertfordshire • CM23 5BD

Telephone: 01279 655936

Email: admin@birchwood.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.birchwoodonline.co.uk

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