



Buckler's Mead
ACADEMY

Inspiring Education For All

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15 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we have now entered the last week of term, I thought it important to write to you with some important updates.

Blazers:

We have nearly completed the process of measuring all students in Year 7 to Year 10 for their blazers. This has created a buzz of excitement around the academy as our students are keen to look smart! We will be sharing more information in the next few days, including your child's chosen size and style.

Parent Survey:

We are keen to ensure we are providing the very best education to all of our students. To do this, we would like to hear parents' views. This will help us build on our areas of strength and develop areas where we can improve further. To help us to do this, please take five minutes to complete the following short survey. This survey will remain open until the end of the school term.

PARENT SURVEY: <https://forms.gle/DLFjNRWBHqicVK5G6>

Last Day of Term Arrangements:

On Friday 17 December we will finish at lunchtime. Students will return to their tutor groups at the end of Period 3.

- Year 10 and Year 11 will then leave at 12.10
- Years 7, 8 and 9 will leave at 12.15

If you have any issues with childcare arrangements and need your child to stay in the academy until the end of the day, please contact the main office.

Returning in January:

As you are probably aware, schools have been asked to mass test for COVID-19 when the students return in January. We are keen to avoid as much disruption as possible and will therefore be doing this over one day, on Wednesday 5 January. The arrangements are as follows:

Monday 3 January: Bank Holiday in lieu of New Year's Day
Tuesday 4 January: INSET Day – students are not required in the academy
Wednesday 5 January: COVID Testing Day

Students should attend the testing at the time indicated below. They will then go to their normal lessons for the rest of the day. Students will only be notified if they test positive.

Parents/Carers **DO NOT** need to complete the consent form unless they have not already done so.

PARENT CONSENT LINK <https://forms.gle/UQ9bHzb1Z97DSRjG9>

Headteacher: Mr M Lawrence BSc Hons.

Buckler's Mead Academy, Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership
Company Registration Number 07365778, VAT Number: 115 2460 50



Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership

Arrival Time Wednesday 05/01/22	Tutor Groups
08.30	11VDHU – 11WKM – 11HSMO
09.05	11LRW – 11MRA – 11SSC
09.35	10VACW – 10WJBY – 10SKL
10.15	10HKW – 10MSS – 10SKL
11.00	9HSBA – 9MKV – 9WSLE
11.35	9LDSM – 9SRB – 9VDHW
12.05	8VWVI – 8WJH – 8HCC
12.30	8LAWN – 8MNF – 8SMH
13.45	7HCP – 7LNA – 7MJHA
14.10	7SVGA – 7VJM – 7WVH

Updated Guidance from the DfE – Daily Testing for Contacts of COVID-19:

From Tuesday 14 December 2021, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 has been introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.

Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19 and will help protect education settings by reducing transmission, helping to keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12 December press release](#). This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January. If you require any more COVID-19 Lateral Flow Tests, please don't hesitate to contact the academy.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case. For students with SEND who struggle to or are unable to self-swab daily for 7 days, settings should work with students and their families to agree an appropriate testing route, such as assisted swabbing. Information on further support measures will be provided.

Finally, it is important to continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing for all education and childcare workforce and all students of secondary age and above.

Information from Somerset SAINT regarding FLU vaccinations:

Somerset SAINT will be offering FLU vaccinations at the following venues on the dates below. These clinics are for school aged children who have missed their FLU vaccination in school (they are unable to vaccinate children whose schools they have not yet visited unless there is a valid medical reason).

Date	Time	Location
21/12/2021	10.00 – 14.00	Crispin Hall, 83 High Street STREET BA16 0EZ
22/12/2021	10.00 – 14.00	Westlands Entertainment Venue, Westbourne Close YEOVIL BA20 2DD
30/12/2021	10.00 – 14.00	Westlands Entertainment Venue, Westbourne Close YEOVIL BA20 2DD
31/12/2021	10.00 – 14.00	Community Families Hub, East Reach House East Reach, TAUNTON TA1 3EN

Thank you for all your continued support.

Yours sincerely



MR M LAWRENCE
Headteacher