



Belper School and Sixth Form Centre

'Create your future'

Dear Families and Students,

Merry Christmas! What a year 2021 has been. Let's hope that 2022 brings something better for us all. The news is full of talk of the Omicron variant at the moment. The Covid figures for the school and surrounding area are currently low suggesting that Omicron has not reached us yet and hopefully the Christmas holidays will bring a natural "fire break" to keep us safe.

We will be offering tests to students on their return in January as detailed on the next page. It is not clear what other Covid mitigations we may need in the New Year, and I will send out more information just before students return in January when the Covid picture may be clearer. It is important to note that I am not expecting a return to lockdown, and it is something I very much hope the Government can avoid.

We will be saying goodbye to 5 long standing members of staff this year; Pam Jackson, Sandra Russell, Michaela McCormack, and Maureen Morton who are retiring and Sue Torry who is moving to a promotion. They have all offered great service to the school and will be missed. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

One final note from me; I wish everyone a relaxing, enjoyable and Covid free Christmas break. Have a wonderful time and I look forward to returning to school in the 2022.

*With my very best wishes,
Nick Goforth*

LAST DAY OF TERM – TUESDAY 21 DECEMBER 2021

A reminder that school closes after afternoon registration on Tuesday 21 December 2021. If your child usually takes the bus at the end of the school day you should make alternative arrangements for them on 21 December as there will be no DCC provided student transport services running at 1.10pm when students leave. If you foresee any issues with this then please leave your details with the school office and a member of staff will contact you.

Spring Term 2022 – Staggered start and on-site lateral flow testing

See below the plans for the return for each year group. We apologise for the delay in getting some year groups back into school, but we are required to offer testing to students before they return. Testing is optional but please note that students who are not going to be tested still need to return at the same time as the rest of their year group.

Students arriving for testing should wait outside Student Reception until they are accompanied to the testing room by a member of staff. Once the test has been done, they will exit the school site via the same route.

YEAR 7

Tuesday 11 January 2022	Optional Covid testing at school for year 7 students whose parents/carers have given consent (see timings below) 11.15am 7NJG/7KJA 11.45am 7PKA/7EMF 2.00pm 7STM/7JGH 2.30pm 7PKT
Wednesday 12 January 2022	Year 7 students arrive at school and go to tutor base for registration at 8.40am as normal.
Remainder of week	Normal timetable

YEAR 8

Tuesday 11 January 2022	Optional Covid testing at school for year 8 students whose parents/carers have given consent (see timings below) 1.00pm 8JGS/8SJB 1.30pm 8REN/8THP
Wednesday 12 January 2022	Optional Covid testing at school for year 8 students whose parents/carers have given consent (see timings below) 9.00am 8ADW/8CBT 9.30am 8STL/8TLS
Thursday 13 January 2022	Year 8 students arrive at school and go to tutor base for registration at 8.40am as normal.
Remainder of week	Normal timetable

Continued over ...

Spring Term 2022 – Staggered start and on-site lateral flow testing continued...

YEAR 9

Tuesday 11 January 2022	Year 9 students work remotely from home accessing Google Classroom, school email and Remote Working resources on the school website
Wednesday 12 January 2022	Optional Covid testing at school for year 9 students whose parents/carers have given consent (see timings below) 10.00am 9AWH/9MEC 10.30am 9EKP 11.15am 9RIM/9SJH 11.45am 9BRS/9PSM
Thursday 13 January 2022	Year 9 students arrive at school and go to tutor base for registration at 8.40am as normal.
Remainder of week	Normal timetable

YEAR 10

Tuesday 11 January 2022	Year 10 students work remotely from home accessing Google Classroom, school email and Remote Working resources on the school website
Wednesday 12 January 2022	Optional Covid testing at school for year 10 students whose parents/carers have given consent (see timings below) 1.00pm 10EHC/10MLK 1.30pm 10CNW/10SWG 2.00pm 10EMB/10GSB 2.30pm 10LMA
Thursday 13 January 2022	Year 10 students arrive at school and go to tutor base for registration at 8.40am as normal.
Remainder of week	Normal timetable

YEAR 11

Tuesday 11 January 2022	Optional Covid testing at school for year 11 students whose parents/carers have given consent (see timings below) 10.00am 11KES/11LNC 10.20am 11SRS/11SZT 10.40am 11SJL/11MAW/11KAT
Wednesday 12 January 2022	Year 11 students arrive at school and go to tutor base for registration at 8.40am as normal.
Remainder of week	Normal timetable

Continued ...

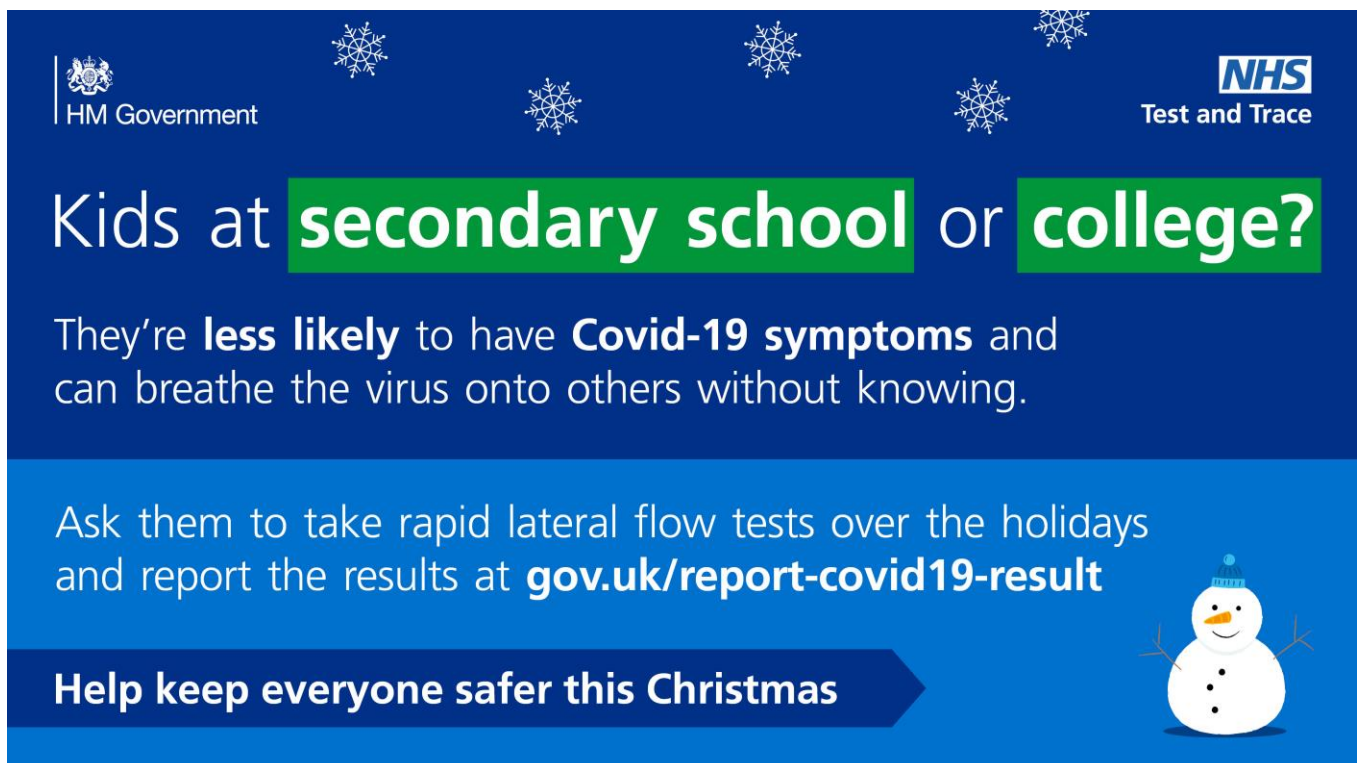
Spring Term 2022 – Staggered start and on-site lateral flow testing continued...

YEAR 12/13

Tuesday 11 January 2022	Optional Covid testing at school for year 11 students whose parents/carers have given consent (see timings below) 9.00am Year 12 9.30am Year 13
Wednesday 12 January 2022 onwards	Normal timetable

HOME TESTING

We are continuing to advise our staff and students to test using Lateral Flow Devices twice weekly and to self-isolate and book a PCR test if the LFD is positive. Students will be given a further opportunity to take home testing kits home with them on Monday 20 December 2021. These are also available on request from Student Reception.



HM Government


NHS
Test and Trace

Kids at **secondary school** or **college?**

They're **less likely** to have **Covid-19 symptoms** and can breathe the virus onto others without knowing.

Ask them to take rapid lateral flow tests over the holidays and report the results at **gov.uk/report-covid19-result**

Help keep everyone safer this Christmas



FOOD BANK APPEAL UPDATE

A big thank you to all our parents, carers, students and staff who very kindly donated to the Food Bank Appeal this year.

Donations flooded in and we have been completely overwhelmed by your generosity.

Thank you!

Message from the Head of Year 9

As we approach the end of term, I thought it would be helpful to give you some key dates to put in your diaries for after Christmas. These of course, may be subject to change depending on COVID 19 updates in the New Year. It will be a busy half term for us:

- Thursday 10th February: Year 9 Options evening 5.30pm-7.30pm
- Thursday 17th February: Tutor Review (online) 4.00pm-7.00pm
- Friday 18th February: Tutor Review (online) 8.30am-11.15am
- Thursday 3rd March: Year 9 Parents' evening (online) 3.45pm-6.45 pm

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you a very happy and healthy Christmas.

Rachel Warren
Head of Year 9

COMING UP

Tuesday 21 December 2021
Last day of term

Wednesday 22 December 2021
INSET day

Monday 10 January 2022
INSET day

TERM DATES

Spring 1
11 January to 18 February 2022

Spring 2
28 February to 8 April 2022

Summer 1
25 April to 27 May 2022

Summer 2
6 June to 22 July 2022

Y11 Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre Visit – Tuesday 15 February 2022

As part of students' History education approximately 65 students have the opportunity to visit the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre in Laxton. The visit will enhance their understanding of the Holocaust which is part of their GCSE course. There is a museum, remembrance garden and a unique opportunity to hear a talk from a holocaust survivor.

Places will be available to book and pay for via ParentPay from Wednesday 12 January 2022. Cost of trip: £15.00

Important note for students in Year 7, 8 and 9



We would like students to bring their own headphones to music lessons to use in the keyboards, however, these need to have a 'mini-jack' connection (see photo left)

Unfortunately, iPhone headphones, buds or large 'jack' cables won't fit. A mini-jack connection is around the same size input as an android mobile headphone/earphone socket.

PE NEWS

Swimming gala: A massive 'well done' to the school's swimming teams who emerged as Amber Valley champions at the recent Amber Valley Schools' Swim gala. Both the under 14 girls and the under 16 boys won their respective competitions against opposition from five of our local schools. The under 14 boys and the under 16 girls also performed well with both securing third place. The combined results of our four teams comfortably made us this year's champions!!

Handball: We fielded two teams at the Amber Valley Under 16 boys' handball development festival. Our teams won most of their games comfortably and we hope to be able to organise a more formal event in the new year. We will also be pressing other schools to raise girls teams to play us!

Table tennis - The Amber Valley festival was hit by Covid withdrawals but we still managed to play an under 16 boys' match with John Flamsteed. Well done to our boys who ran out comfortable winners by 73 games to 13.

Basketball - Well done to the under 15 and under 16 boys' teams who opened their County Cup campaigns with straightforward victories. The under 16s beat Da Vinci 48-20 and the under 15s overcame John Port by 38-22, but tougher games are sure to lie ahead!!

PE in the winter: Here is another reminder to students to come prepared for cold, wet weather over the winter. They may still have to go outside in wet or cold conditions. Students can bring woolly hats, gloves, neck warmers (but not scarves), tracksuit bottoms, leggings, base layers and an additional vest or t-shirt to wear under their PE tops. Students must bring a change of footwear for PE - footwear will often get wet or muddy in lessons. Students should also consider bringing a small towel to dry themselves off on particularly wet days as well as spare underwear. Students who are unfit to participate in PE are reminded that they are required to bring a note written and signed by a parent. Emails in such circumstances are ineffective as the PE staff are away from their laptops for much of the day. In such cases, students will have to go with their classmates and observe the lesson from the sidelines. We do not have the capacity to send students to work elsewhere in these circumstances.

Any PE related queries can be directed to Steve Lawes stl@belperschool.co.uk

Year 7 Kicking off 2022 with 5-a-side Football!

Our year 7 students will begin an inter-tutor 5-a-side football league in January 2022. This will take place on Friday lunchtimes in the Sports Hall. Each tutor group will get weekly games over a period of 6 weeks. Fixture lists and rules will be passed on to tutors shortly so that everyone is ready and prepared for the launch.

In addition to this, year 7 football training will continue into 2022, with students training each Wednesday after school 3.00-4.15pm. There is no need to sign up for this and all abilities are welcome. This should then lead to us playing fixtures against other local schools in the near future.

Students should contact Matt Boyle in the PE department for further details.

Environment and Climate Change Committee

A new committee is now being established made up of sixth form students. The previous committee did some excellent work to try to help the students of Belper School become more aware of environmental issues. Good luck to the new committee as they take this extremely important baton from their predecessors. In the first instance, the committee are keen to hear from students or parents who have any ideas for actions or activities in school to raise awareness around environmental issues. If you have any suggestions or questions, you can email environment@belperschool.co.uk.

School Transport Timetable from January 2022

To view the revised timetable for school transport effective from January 2022, please see our website or [click here](#).

We have now moved to Parent Portal to circulate all notices, letters and newsletters to parents/carers. The next edition of this newsletter will be published via Parent Portal on Monday 17 January 2022.

Season's Greetings to all our parents, carers and students
from
the staff and Governors of
Belper School and Sixth Form Centre

