

Weekly Bulletin for Families

Message from the Head of School

Whilst we have only been physically back in school a short time, it is no surprise that both students and staff report feeling fatigued. The school day is intense, the demands on our young people to concentrate and challenge their thinking are high. Although in many ways I am disappointed to only have three days left this term, I can see that this offers an opportunity for us all to recharge and prepare for the Trinity term ahead.

As school teachers we do all we can within the classroom to facilitate successful learning for our students. I see this on a daily basis as I circulate our school, I see teachers delivering engaging lessons, stretching and supporting our students. I see students reflecting on their learning and understanding, feeling safe to ask for support and guidance.

There are many educational and psychological theories which indicate that children learn best when they take responsibility for their own learning. For a student to own their learning it starts before they enter the classroom. It starts with how they perceive themselves as a student and as a member of the school community. A student who is fully prepared, both mentally and practically for their day in school is more likely to succeed than a student who is not. Being prepared helps a young person feel confident, that they have the tools for the tasks ahead, making school feel achievable.

With this in mind we are going to expect our students to address three aspects of school which they have full control of: punctuality, uniform and equipment and finally food! As a school and Trust we fundamentally believe in all three of these components.

Punctuality:

Learning time is precious, this is the primary purpose of school for our young people. What seems like only a few minutes to a teenager quickly adds up. Five minutes late to all six lessons equates to 30 minutes of lost learning a day, this is a shocking two and a half hours a week! We have reviewed movement around school and are confident that there is rarely a legitimate reason to be late. On our return after Easter, we will be recording all lateness and students will be expected to make up lost learning time in after school learning sessions.

Uniform and equipment:

The debate over school uniform has been present for many years, I remember as a student myself questioning the purpose and indeed the style of my own school's uniform. As a school we believe that uniform sets a tone, it offers our students an identity, they are part of our SET Beccles community and we are proud to be in this together. Uniform allows a sense of



Mrs H Philpott
Head of School

equality, there are no judgements or social prejudices between students when we are united. For me though, it is also about mindset, when a student puts on their uniform in the morning they become a student, they become ready to learn, they become open to the challenges and tasks of the day ahead. I feel proud when I see our students, they too need to feel this pride.

As I have previously mentioned, I do appreciate that many of our students have had a growth spurt during lockdown, please use the Easter holiday to ensure your child has the correct uniform which is comfortable and meets our school expectations. Please do contact the school office if you have any issues or need support with uniform.

As the weather warms, we will no longer be allowing students to wear a hoodie in or around school. Students may wear an outside coat at break and lunchtime.

Expectation for Trinity Term:

- Black or grey trousers – NO leggings or jeans
- Black or grey skirt – this must be knee length
- White shirt – tucked in
- School tie
- Black leather shoes (no logos)
- School blazer
- School hoodie for PE ONLY

Likewise, a key part of being prepared is having the right equipment, please use the Easter break to replenish pencil cases with the essential equipment to help your child feel ready and prepared to learn.

Food:

As you are all aware Seckford Education Trust prides itself on offering our students wholesome and nutritious meals. Lockdown has created some barriers which our catering team have overcome as best they can. Our Head Chef, Sonia Rodwell is very supportive and accommodating, meeting individual student's dietary needs on a daily basis. We do appreciate that during lockdown students have had more freedom both in terms of what they choose to eat and when. I have two teenagers at home myself so am very aware of the frequency, quantity and dietary choices our young people make! As both a teacher and a mother, I do believe that food is an essential ingredient in enabling a young person to be emotionally and physically balanced and healthy. Our Trust approach, which parents and students understand when they join us, is that we provide all food for our students during the school day. Students are not permitted to bring additional food or drinks onto the school site. Water is available throughout the day, we have spare bottles for those students who may have accidentally mislaid theirs as keeping hydrated is a vital component of being able to concentrate and learn.

Pick-up and drop-off arrangements:

We would like to inform you that after the Easter holiday we will no longer be opening our school playground for parents who currently either dropped off their children in the morning by car or collected them at the end of the day. We appreciate this may cause some inconvenience but have decided to make this change in line with both our safeguarding and fire safety policies. Please speak with your children to make arrangements for where you will

collect them after Easter. Please can I also urge you to be mindful of our neighbours and local community when waiting at the end of the day.

I wish you all a very safe and happy Easter break and look forward to welcoming our smart and prepared students back on Tuesday 20th April.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs H Philpott, Head of School



Uniform Guide

A white shirt or blouse with either short or long sleeves (not $\frac{3}{4}$ length).

Clip-on school tie (blouses must therefore have a top button to allow a tie to be worn at all times).

Charcoal grey / black trousers. Leggings, jeans and sportswear are not acceptable.

Charcoal grey pleated skirt with blue overcheck.

Black blazer with the School's logo on the breast pocket.

Coats should ideally be plain black or navy (no denim, leather or sportswear).

Black socks (please note knee-high socks are not part of our uniform). Students may wear plain black tights. No other style or colour of tights are acceptable.

Shoes should be flat and black leather.

Non-black shoes are not allowed and logos should not be visible. High heels, boots, sandals, canvas style plimsolls and trainers, are not permitted.



COVID-19 over Easter Break:

We need to remain vigilant and students and families must continue to play an important role in keeping the whole school community safe.

Home testing:

It is important that students continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays. Please also ensure a test is undertaken on Monday evening (19th April) or Tuesday morning (20th April) before students come back to school.

A reminder that home testing is only suitable for individuals without symptoms and home tests kits must never be used to determine if an individual with symptoms has COVID-19. Instead you must book a PCR test, you can book a test by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Reporting your test result:

A reminder that once you have completed the test and received a result you must report the result (negative, positive or void) via the NHS Test & Trace digital platform and to the school.

1) To report your result via the NHS Test & Trace digital platform please visit www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result or by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

2) In addition, all positive results should be reported to the school immediately via <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f3cbf08219cb4385ac5ac44fbfd066e1> We will then be in touch to provide further guidance and to undertake a process of contact tracing.

Reporting COVID cases over Easter

- In order to support NHS track and trace it is important that you continue to report any cases to school up to and including Friday 2nd April. This is because Wednesday 31st March would be within the 48hr infectious period that occurs prior to the onset of symptoms (or a positive test result).

- Therefore, if you or your child displays any symptoms of coronavirus on either 1st or 2nd April, please can you immediately organise a test via a testing centre and then report the result to <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f3cbf08219cb4385ac5ac44fbfd066e1>.

Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

The test kits supplied by school should only be used by students. However, regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests;
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test); or pick up tests to do at home.

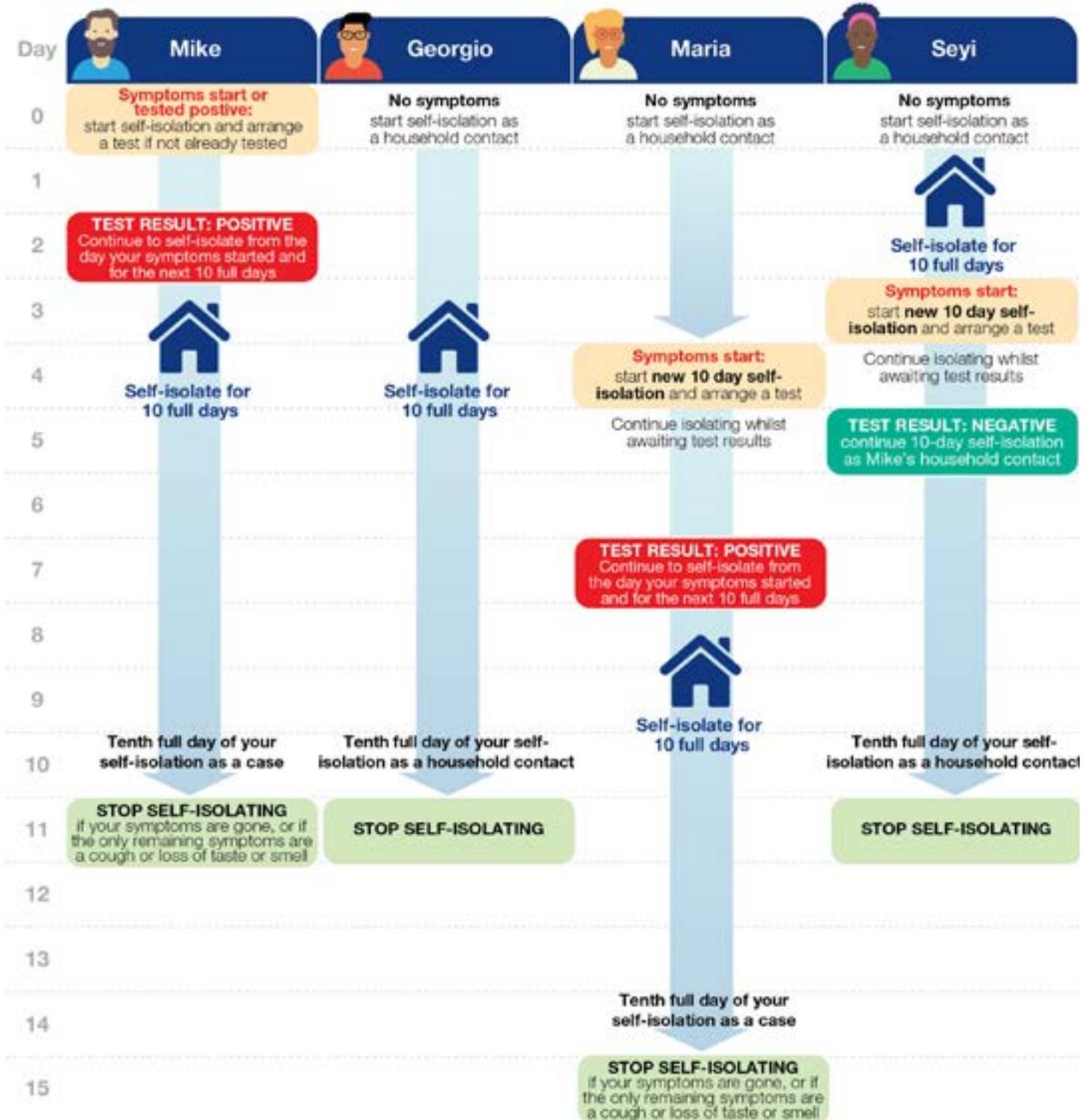
To find out more on school household testing visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>.



Stay at home and self-isolate.

Please see [detailed guidance online](#).

Mike's household: In this example, Mike lives with Georgio, Maria and Seyi. Mike is the first case of COVID-19 in this household. He and everyone in the household begin self-isolating from the day Mike's symptoms start (or if he had no symptoms, from the date of his positive test).



Self-isolate for 10 full days.

You need to self-isolate from the day the first person in your household started symptoms and for the next 10 full days. If they did not have symptoms, self-isolate from the day of their test and for the next 10 full days.

To self-isolate means:

Do not go to work, school, or public areas and do not use public transport or taxis. Only leave your home to get to your test if you need to, observe strict social distancing advice and return immediately afterwards.



HANDS

FACE

SPACE

Dates For Your Diary

Year 7

Monday 10 - Friday 14 May: KS3 examinations

Thursday 24 June: Progress Checkpoint 4 - reports sent home

Year 8

Thursday 29 April: Progress Evening

Monday 10 - Friday 14 May: KS3 examinations

Thursday 24 June: Progress Checkpoint 4 - reports sent home

Year 9

Monday 10 - Friday 14 May: KS3 examinations

Monday 21 June: Year 9/10 "Is University for You?" Evening

Thursday 24 June: Progress Checkpoint 4 - reports sent home

Year 10

Thursday 22 April: Progress Evening

Tuesday 4 May - Friday 14 May: Mock Examinations

Monday 21 June: Year 9/10 "Is University for You?" Evening

Thursday 24 June: Progress Checkpoint 4 - reports sent home

Parents' and Carers' Open Forum

Tuesday 4 May: 9.30 – 10.30am

Friday 25 June: 9.30 – 10.30am

Year 6 Into 7 Transition

Wednesday 16 June: Transition Evening/ Meet the Tutor (5.00 - 7.00pm)

Tuesday 29 - Wednesday 30 June: Transition Days

Safeguarding support whilst school is closed:

As we approach our Easter break from school, we wish to share with you useful contact numbers for students and their families during a period of school closure should you need any additional support or information:

Crisis - 0337261800

Child Line – 0800 1111

Child Line – www.childline.org.uk

Children' Society - www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Customer First - 0808 800 4005

Food Bank - www.trusselltrust.org

Kooth - www.kooth.com

Mind - www.mind.org.uk

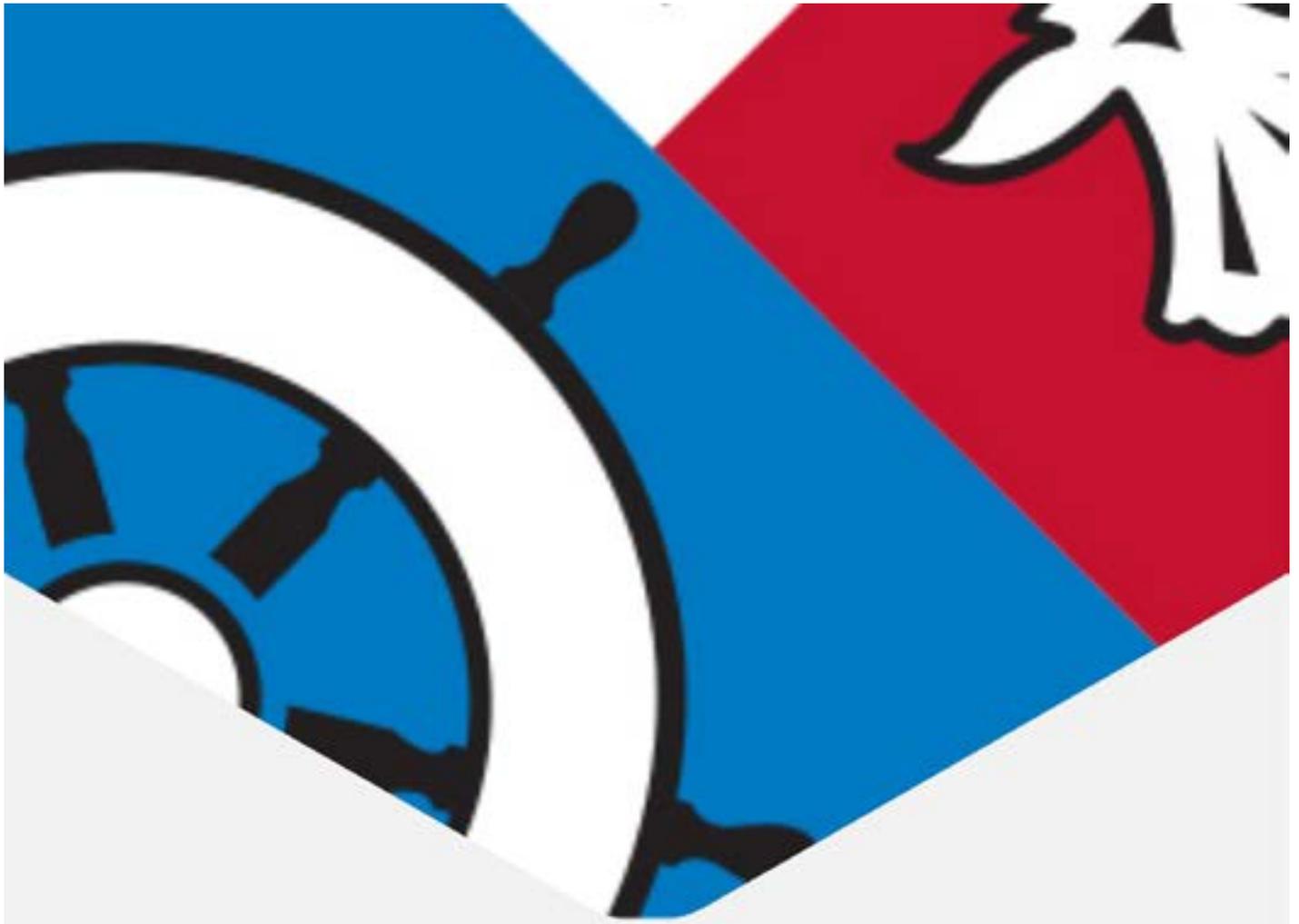
Samaritans – 116 123

NHS website - www.england.nhs.uk

NSPCC website - www.nspcc.org.uk

Place 2be website - www.place2be.org.uk

Young Minds website - www.youngminds.org.uk



Creative Arts

SHOWCASE

A virtual celebration of the arts at the
Seckford Education Trust

Open to all art forms

Deadline for submissions is Fri 2nd April 2021