



# Bideford College

Part of the Launceston College Multi Academy Trust

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

As you will be aware, the government have announced that schools and colleges are once again open for all students. This means that attendance to college is now mandatory meaning that students in all year groups must return full time. The Attendance Matters leaflet on the website summarises the key information regarding how we support good attendance and provides all the current contact details you may need to support with this. <https://bidefordcollege.org/transition-information/>

For most, this will be an exciting step in resuming a more normal routine and a welcome return to some structure. However, we are aware there may be some anxiety around this return for some, particularly if your family has been shielding during the pandemic. Please be assured we are following all the guidelines set out for educational settings and you can read a copy of our risk assessment on the Covid-19 section of our website. If you or your child would like to discuss any concerns around a return to college, please contact your child's Head of House who will be happy to work with you.

An important factor in our risk assessment is the participation in the Track and Trace programme. This means that it is essential that you inform us immediately if your child, or anyone in your household, becomes unwell with Covid-19 symptoms. Absences connected to Covid-19, either illness or self isolation, will be reported separately to other absences so not to impact on a student's attendance record.

Students must not come into the school if they have [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#) or have tested positive in at least the last 10 days. If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).

If a student has tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms. Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

If any member of your household has suspected symptoms of Covid-19, all other household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill or if they do not have symptoms, from the day their test was taken. If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they must stay at home for at least 10 days from when their symptoms appear, regardless of what day they are on in their original 14-day isolation period.

Please call or email and tell us immediately if any member of your household is experiencing symptoms so that we can support Track and Trace and take any necessary actions. If a student is advised to self isolate, but they are feeling well, we can provide work to do at home. We will not be able to have your child back into college until the confirmed negative test result, or the period of isolation is over.

**Dr Claire Ankers**  
Bideford College Principal

**Claire Penfold**  
MAT Chief Executive Officer

**Bideford College**  
Abbotsham Road, Bideford, Devon EX39 3AR  
☎ 01237 477611 📠 01237 429599

✉ [mail@bidefordcollege.org](mailto:mail@bidefordcollege.org) 🌐 [www.bidefordcollege.org](http://www.bidefordcollege.org)

If you have had symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test, then you may end your self-isolation after 10 days and return to your normal routine if you do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste. If you still have a high temperature, keep self-isolating until your temperature returns to normal and seek medical advice.

Clearly, good attendance to college is going to be really important to ensure your child has the best chance of being a confident, successful learner. Outside of the Track and Trace protocols we will resume our normal monitoring and support processes to promote good attendance for all students.

Please be assured that Bideford College remains committed to supporting you and your child at all stages of this process. Please contact the Attendance Officer or your Head of House if you would like further support or advice.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Conroy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Anne-Marie Conroy  
Associate Assistant Principal & Head of English and Drama

