

# The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School

*Known Nurtured Inspired*

Headteacher: Ian Wilson BA PGCE MA NPQH



**26<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

All at Bishops' are proud of our students and their achievements, especially as we move with hope towards school re-opening in March. There has been a great deal of work to maintain an educational offer, navigate safety and examination regulations and have students and staff in school throughout. As one community we pray;

Loving God, thank you that you look out for us and that you find us and you welcome us into your family. Thank you that you receive us with open arms. Amen.

The arrangements needed to safely reopen from the 8<sup>th</sup> March are underway. We were successful in the autumn and with the addition of testing we aim to successfully reopen again! We will be offering three tests for students on site 3 to 5 days apart from the 8<sup>th</sup> March as schools transition pupils and staff to test at home.

## **Why is there a phased return?**

Students will receive their first test on the first morning of their return. They will be working in form group bubbles until their year group have received their first test. Once all students in the year group have been tested, students will return to their timetabled lessons period 4 and period 5. Any students receiving a positive test result will have to self-isolate for 10 days along with any household members and identified close/direct contacts. All students with a negative result will be able to return to a full timetable. We can only safely complete this process for one-year group per day.

Testing is voluntary, however is highly recommended. Please read the [Privacy Notice](#) and complete the [consent form](#) to support a community approach to keeping everyone safe. We require parental consent for testing students aged 11 – 16 years old and the link gives more details about the testing process.

## **What will the staggered start look like?**

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

Year 12 and Year 13 will have an appointment to be tested and then return home. Year 12 and Year 13 lessons are in classrooms from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Mr Moffatt will send more details about these arrangements.

### **From the 8<sup>th</sup> March**

The first day of return for each year group is specified below. Until that day students should continue to follow their remote learning timetable.

	<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>
Year group return	Year 7	Year 8	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March – all year groups in attendance and in classrooms</b>					

## **Children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable students**

Vulnerable children or the children of Critical Workers in all year groups continue to attend. When their year group returns these students re-join their form with the rest of their year group. Although they have been tested this week, they will be required to be tested with their form group.

## **Getting ready and remote learning**

On Friday 5th March, all students will continue to engage with Remote Learning – however, there will be no ‘live’ Teams lessons and all tasks will be independent Remote Learning tasks set on Satchel. As we get ready for the following week, teachers will not be available for questions on this day but that will be considered when activities are set.

I think we will all be busy from the 8th March, staff will be supporting Key Worker provision, testing arrangements, on site supervision and safety arrangements in addition to the teaching of on-site classes. All our adults have not been in the same building for a number of weeks and there will be some juggling, however the Year groups at home should continue with Remote Learning set on Satchel but teachers will not be available to respond to questions within the timetabled hour - happily, questions will be covered in the classroom later in the week.

## **Catering arrangements**

It would be a good idea on the first day of return to bring a snack. Movement around site will be limited at breaktime with students in form group bubbles until testing can be completed. Students will have access to their normal designated spaces for recreation from lunchtime onwards. All year groups will be able to purchase hot food and snacks from 8<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Start/finish times, Uniform and equipment**

As the autumn term, students should attend in full school uniform and be equipped ready to learn. Students are not permitted to share equipment. We plan for a usual full school day with transport running at the normal times.

## **Parents/carers**

Safety guidance asks schools to limit numbers of adults on the school site. With this in mind, we ask that you consider alternative drop off points, do not come onto the school grounds. Please call or email if an appointment is required.

## **Face coverings**

Students must now wear face coverings in classrooms in addition to previous spaces (including public transport) – so “everywhere with a roof” is my phrase. DFE guidance on [face coverings](#) is here. Let's keep up the excellent position we had in the autumn with all students using their face mask and making positive choices.

## Will there be further updates?

If needed, there will be further year group specific information at the end of next week. A half term newsletter is due on Monday and it is a pleasure to extend a welcome to the newest members of our Bishops' family - another year and another March! Thank you as always for your ongoing patience, words of support and commitment to the safety of all in our school community.

Regards



**Ian Wilson**  
Headteacher

