

# The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School

*Known Nurtured Inspired*

*Headteacher: Ian Wilson BA PGCE MA NPQH*



24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

On Tuesday we received details to accompany the news we had all been waiting for: schools will reopen from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Even though there are plenty of loose ends to tie up, I am pleased to have a clear objective to aim for and government safety information to support this decision - [evidence summary](#). Also, on behalf of all staff here, I can say we can't wait to welcome year groups back and I would like to thank you for your ongoing understanding and support.

I mentioned "loose ends" and as ever with the Government's broad Covid announcements there are details that needs sifting through to proceed safely. In this case the key details are that:

- Students should be tested in school for Covid as their year group returns to school
- This process begins from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March
- After the first test, students will undergo further instruction and testing, receiving home testing kits so tests can continue at intervals of between 3-5 days
- Under government guidance, testing remains voluntary but is strongly recommended

The good news is that we already have fully trained staff and volunteers who can administer these tests. However, we need to administer a great many more tests from March 8<sup>th</sup>, and if you can support this by volunteering during the school day between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> please email [kjones@bishopschester.co.uk](mailto:kjones@bishopschester.co.uk) by **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February**. It's not necessary to have a medical background and training is provided. We currently have Lateral Flow Covid Testing in operation at school which is an effective part of our risk assessment and enables us to operate as safely as possible.

Our site team and cleaning team have been very busy preparing Bishops' to ensure we continue to remain Covid secure. Our Risk Assessment document has been updated and is available on our website. As the government announced on Monday, all staff and students will be expected to wear a mask throughout the school day. Masks have been part of our school uniform since September and students will need to wear the correct uniform along with their mask when they return.

The timetable for student's staggered return from March 8<sup>th</sup> will be emailed on Friday. During that transition week Remote Learning will continue for students awaiting their return day, with full onsite lessons for all on March 15<sup>th</sup>. This is something the Government accepts and appreciates, and in line with their advice.

Kind regards,

**Mr Ian Wilson**  
Headteacher