



28 August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

It is with great excitement, anticipation, planning and care that we look forward to fully re-opening the school next week. We are working very closely with the Local Authority to ensure that the risk to students and staff when they return to school is as low as possible. I attended a meeting with the Local Authority's Public Health Team on Wednesday and they reassured me that Bromley is not a local intervention (lockdown) area.

Mrs Maxwell or Mr Birtchnell wrote to you in July outlining the various changes that have been put in place to reduce the risk to our school community in light of the pandemic. Further details of the updated [Risk Assessment](#) are available on the school website along with copies of letters that went out to individual year groups.

You will be aware that the government has now changed their advice surrounding the wearing of face masks in school. Previously it had been said that the wearing of masks should not be necessary in any school. This has now been updated and the Department for Education has stated:

"Nationwide, while the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary, schools will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances. In addition, the government will advise additional measures are taken in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. In these areas, defined as areas of national government intervention as listed on gov.uk, the government's guidance will state face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in secondary schools when moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and where they can inhibit learning."

As a school we have taken a number of precautions to minimise any risk as outlined in our previous correspondence to you. Therefore, in line with the above government guidance, we will not be making the wearing of masks mandatory in any area of the school. This has also been confirmed by the Local Authority that this is currently not necessary.

However, we absolutely recognise that some students will feel more comfortable wearing a face mask in the corridors and or in the classroom and I am very happy for them to do so. Please note that masks must be plain in appearance, no logos or motifs, and must be worn appropriately and sensibly. Any student intentionally misusing a mask will be required to take it off.

We will of course constantly review this decision in light of any updated government guidance and any changes in the local situation.



There are a number of **key** points I would like to draw your attention to at this stage:

- Attendance will be **mandatory** for all children.
- ***If your son or daughter displays any symptoms of Covid-19 they must not come to school***
- Any student who has symptoms of Coronavirus should get tested and only return once they are well or if the test comes back negative
- If anyone in the household has any symptoms (cough, high temperature, loss of smell or taste) the whole family must isolate for 14 days unless the person with the symptoms is tested and it comes back as negative
- Some students, if they have been on holiday abroad, returning to the UK must quarantine for 14 days, depending on the country they visited. Please do let the school know if you have needed to quarantine due to your holidays and you are not able to return to school.
- There will be a staggered start and finish time. Year 7, 8 and 13 will begin at 9:30am and finish at 4pm. Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 will start school at 8:40 and finish at 3:10pm
- The timetable and school day as a consequence will be different to what students previously would have been used to
- Students will largely remain in one area within school throughout the day
- They will enter and exit the building at different points of the school. Please see previous communication about each year group's point of entry
- Hand sanitiser will be located outside each classroom. Students **must** use it as they arrive in school, as they go to break and return from break, as well as during any movement between classrooms
- School uniform **must** be worn. If uniform cannot be washed daily it should be stored in a bag once the student is home to reduce risk of contamination
- Students are encouraged wherever possible to walk, cycle or drive to school
- If students take public transport, they must wear a face mask and this needs to be stored safely in a sealable plastic bag or container when they arrive at school. They must use hand sanitiser if they remove their face mask. Please see attachments from Southeastern giving information about public transport.
- TfL also plan to introduce buses dedicated for school travel. These plans include dedicating up to every other bus for school travel on what they anticipate will be the busiest high-frequency routes (those with six or more buses per hour). These services would be clearly signed, and information would be posted at bus stops and online.
- There will be a more limited canteen service. There will be no break service.



The start of term will consist of tutorial remote meetings with their form tutor for all year groups. Any questions regarding the opening of school can be addressed to the form tutor or the pastoral team at this point. We are very mindful of the different lockdown experiences everyone will have had and we wish to provide support wherever needed. If you have any other questions, please contact either the Head of Year or the relevant Assistant Headteacher.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Rees'.

Andrew Rees
Headteacher