



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

Co-Headteachers: Ms T Nickson BEd (Hons), MA, NPQH, FCCT

Mr A Wood BA (Oxon), PGCE, MBA, NPQH

Woods Avenue, Hatfield, Herts AL10 8NL T: 01707 275331

Email: admin@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk Website: www.bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk

BHGS is a company limited by guarantee Company number: 07831507 Charity number: EW01517



22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to update you on our plans to open the school more widely to Years 10 and 12. We are sure that you will have seen that there has been a great deal in the media about the government's decision to open schools more widely. It seems that everybody has an opinion on whether this is the right thing to do at this time and separating the rhetoric from the reality can be difficult. As a school we are very keen to welcome more students back into school, but only if it is safe to do so.

We have studied the guidance that is available very carefully and continue to construct detailed plans to open to these year groups. In this letter we are providing an outline of what we are planning in order that you can start making any necessary transport, childcare or other arrangements. We are asking parents/carers of pupils in Years 10 and 12 to complete the survey below to enable us to adapt our plans accordingly based on your feedback. The Department for Education is still working on its guidance to schools, so it is important to note that these plans may have to change in the light of new guidance, and all of these plans are contingent on the latest scientific advice showing that it is safe to open schools more widely which will not be available till May 29th.

Year 10

- **w/b 1st June, 8th June, 15th June and 22nd June:** Year 10 continue to work at home
- **w/b 29th June and 6th July:**
 - Year 10 will be split into 2 halves (75 pupils in each half) and will be invited to come into school for 2 days per week (either Monday and Tuesday or Wednesday and Thursday) for lessons with their subject teachers; timings of sessions will be different from the usual and must be read carefully when further details are sent out
 - Each group of 75 will be split into small groups of up to 15 pupils (most will be significantly less than this)
 - Social distancing rules will be applied in classrooms and around the building; any pupil who does not comply with these rules which will keep everyone in our community safe, will be sent home immediately - please reinforce this at home

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



- **w/b 13th July:** Year 10 return to working at home

Once we have had feedback from the parent/carer survey (see below) we will write to you again explaining in more detail the arrangements for coming into school, including which groups and which days your daughter will be attending.

We are aware that Year 10 pupils would originally have been undertaking Year 10 exams during the next half term. We will be writing to you separately regarding the arrangements we are making for Year 10 assessments to be completed remotely.

Year 12

- **w/b 1st June and 8th June:** Year 12 continue to work at home
- **w/b 15th June:**
 - Year 12 will be invited to come into school in the **afternoons only** at the time of their usual options blocks (ie Monday pm: Block C; Tuesday pm: Block D; Thursday pm: Block A; Friday pm: Block B) for lessons with their subject teachers
 - Year 12 will only come into school at the times when they would normally have taught lessons
 - Social distancing rules will be applied in classrooms and around the building with a maximum of 15 in a class
- **w/b 22 June and 29th June:** Year 12 return to working at home, including completion of assessments
- **w/b 6th July:**
 - Year 12 will be invited to come into school in the **mornings only starting at 9.45am** for their usual options blocks (ie Monday am: Block A; Tuesday am: Block B; Wednesday am Block C; Thursday am: Block D) for lessons with their subject teachers
 - Year 12 must only be in school during the sessions stated
 - Social distancing rules will be applied in classrooms and around the building with a maximum of 15 in a class

Please note that these arrangements are specific to Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School. 6th Form students who have lessons at other sites will be notified by those schools as to the arrangements for them to attend any lessons. Consortium students taught in any Bishop's classes are also invited to attend at the times stated above.

If you are a Year 10 or Year 12 parent/carer, it is important that we have information from you regarding your intentions; this is especially important for any child who may have received a shielding letter or who lives in a household with extremely vulnerable family members. We would therefore ask that you read the risk assessment attached very carefully before taking part in the very short parent/carer survey using the link below. The risk assessment provides more detailed information about how we plan to keep students and staff safe, following social distancing guidelines as far as is possible within a school setting. We will continue to update this risk assessment based on available guidance from the government. Please complete this survey by Monday 1st June.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwIBhe45xQOHx2K93o7yLstsAcDB_oJ5_6NyX9ioQBZ7b1SA/viewform?usp=sf_link

As a school, we completely respect that your family comes first and would like to say that we understand the decision on whether or not to send your daughter/son into school, as per the plan described, is yours to make. We are expecting the large majority of our pupils to attend in accordance with our plans, but appreciate that this may not be possible for all pupils.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your support, patience and understanding during this time but also for your recognition of the hard work that our staff are undertaking for your children. These messages are truly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood and Ms T Nickson
Co-Headteachers