



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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3rd November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

New national restrictions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic come into force on Thursday 5th November. The national guidance states that:

The Government will continue to prioritise the wellbeing and long-term futures of our young people and will not be closing schools, colleges or universities.

We are therefore remaining open to all pupils and all pupils are expected to attend unless they are unwell, have to self-isolate or have an approved absence.

We are implementing some additional measures at BHGS during the period of these restrictions. These supplement our existing precautionary measures outlined in our Risk Assessment (available on the Letters page of our website). The school has operated very successfully so far this term and we are reluctant to make changes. However, we must consider the additional pressures that the national restrictions will place on all members of the school community. In particular we have taken the following into consideration:

- Staff wellbeing and workload
- Potential loss of childcare provision for staff with young families during this period
- Additional responsibilities for some staff operating a 'support bubble' with vulnerable members of their family
- The national restriction that the population should minimise the amount of time spent outside their home

From Thursday 5th November the following new measures will be implemented:

After school clubs/activities

- All enrichment clubs are cancelled for the duration of the national lockdown and until further notice
- Targeted revision, catch-up classes, and activities directly related to curriculum work (e.g. rehearsals/practice for exam practicals) may still take place for small groups/individuals - staff will inform pupils involved about this individually
- Homework club will continue until 4 pm for pupils to get support with homework
- Science 'Lesson 7' for Triple Science students in Years 10 and 11 will continue as normal
- The 'Drop In' and breakfast for our Young Carers will continue

Visitors

- All non-essential visits to the school will be postponed.
- Parental contact should take place by phone/email unless it is an emergency
- Parents should not come into school unless they have an appointment, this includes to drop off/collect belongings

The decision to cancel our enrichment clubs for the time being has not been taken lightly but we feel that this is the right decision in the current circumstances. Homework club will remain open for those pupils who need it. We cannot supervise large numbers of pupils on the school site after school so ask that parents/carers make arrangements for all pupils to leave school at the end of their school day. Parents/carers should not use the drop off zone to collect pupils

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at the end of the school day as this blocks access for the school bus and for staff. Please arrange to meet your child away from Woods Avenue rather than parking along this busy road. The barrier into the main car park will be raised at 3.30 pm and parents/carers can drive into the main car park from this time as there is usually ample space for parking by then. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that pupils are now required to wear a mask when moving around the school so please ensure that they come to school with at least one mask - having a spare to be kept in their locker at school would be a good idea.

The full national guidance regarding the new restrictions can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

Please note that when out of school all pupils must adhere to these rules. This means that they should not leave the home except for the specific purposes listed and must not meet socially indoors with anyone outside their household and can only meet with one other person in an outdoor public space.

As you will be aware, guidance can change at short notice and we will of course notify you of any changes to these amendments as and when they arise. We continue to prioritise the safety of pupils and staff whilst maintaining the highest possible standard of educational provision. Thank you once again for your continued support and consideration. I continue to be immensely impressed with the attitude of our school community which constantly demonstrates mutual support and understanding in very challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood
Headteacher