



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

Headteacher: 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

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31st December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families have managed to have an enjoyable Christmas break, despite the current circumstances in which we are all living. I am writing to update you on the arrangements for the start of next term and on the implementation of testing for Covid-19 in school.

Amended Arrangements for the Start of Term

The Government has announced some changes to the arrangements for the start of term. Please note the following:

Week beginning Monday 4th January:

- The BTEC Health & Social Care exam taking place on 6th January will go ahead as scheduled and 6th Form pupils should attend this as normal. All other BTEC exams for 6th Form will also continue as scheduled at other sites
- Remote lessons for **Years 11 and 13 will start from Monday 4th January**
- Remote lessons for **Year 7-10 and Year 12 will start from Tuesday 5th January** - this will allow time for staff to prepare resources for remote learning
- Years 7-13 should not attend school unless covered by the next bullet point
- Pupils who fall into the category of **vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers** may attend school from Tuesday 5th January. If you would like your child to attend school please complete this Google Form by 2.00 pm on Monday 4th January:
<https://forms.gle/i4DqY2RxWCoDnAYn6>

NB - the small number of children whose parents have requested that they attend on Monday 4th January may still do so

Week beginning Monday 11th January

- The BTEC Health and Social Care exam on 11th January will take place as scheduled and 6th Form pupils should attend this as normal in school. All other BTEC exams for 6th Form will also continue as scheduled at other sites
- **Year 11 to attend school for face-to-face lessons**

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



- Year 13 exams will take place, following the same schedule but one week later; **Year 13 should only attend school for their exams**
- **Remote lessons will take place for Years 7-10 and Year 12**
- Pupils who fall into the category of **vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers** may continue to attend school. Please use the same form above to request this for your child.

Week beginning Monday 18th January

- **All pupils return to school for face-to face lessons**

For pupils working remotely at home it is very important that they maintain the routine of the school day. Most form tutors will aim to start the day with a registration activity on their form Google Classroom and pupils should take breaks at the usual times. Some additional homework tasks may also be set for pupils to complete after the school day has finished. Teaching staff will always endeavour to be 'live' in the lessons on Google Classroom but please be aware that staff may be required to attend training during the school day so may have to answer any pupil questions later that day. More detailed guidance and instructions regarding remote learning will be issued next week.

Pupils in Year 9 were due to sit their Year 9 exams during the first week of term and these dates will now be reviewed and more detailed information sent out early next term.

Unfortunately the timing of the Government's announcement has meant that we are unable to organise full provision for children of critical workers/vulnerable children until Tuesday 5th January. Those pupils who do attend school will follow the same remote curriculum as those who are at home. The school will provide a supervised room and IT facilities to enable this. At the time of writing we are uncertain about the availability of catering facilities in school so any pupil who does attend should bring a packed lunch.

If your child does not have access to the necessary technology at home in order for them to complete remote learning tasks, please also use this form to request that they attend school. Please note that we have limited facilities in school so only make a request if there is no alternative at home.

<https://forms.gle/i4DgY2RxWCoDnAYn6>

We are not in a position at this stage to lend out chromebooks as this will only be a short period of remote learning. Despite the claims by the government regarding providing laptops to schools, we have not received anywhere near enough to meet all our needs.

Pupils in receipt of Free School Meals will be issued with supermarket vouchers for the week beginning Monday 4th January. Any questions regarding FSM should be directed to Mrs Jackson mjackson@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk .

Testing for Covid-19 in School

During the first week of term we will be working on the Government's plans for widespread testing of pupils in schools. There continue to be many unanswered questions regarding how this will operate and I have been provided with limited detail at the time of writing. We do know that schools will rely on a volunteer workforce to support the carrying out of the tests.

We do not have the staff capacity to administer these tests without outside help so I would be hugely grateful to any parents/carers who are able to give up some time to help us with this. You do not need to have any particular medical expertise, though this might be helpful for some tasks. There are different roles and these are briefly outlined in the linked Google form below. It is likely that we will need volunteers throughout January, and we will draw up a rota for volunteers when we have clarity on availability and the likely schedule/start date. The government will be providing an on-line training session that you would be required to take prior to starting and the school will provide all the necessary PPE required. Please note that the tests are self-administered so no adult will be required to swab a pupil.

If any parent/carer is able to volunteer to help with the testing please complete this Google form. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1t2_O3HbKR8wA6Cbpo0TflUgjeWmLWTOReXASj7Jeul/edit?usp=sharing

Obviously the more volunteers we can recruit the less the burden will be on any individual volunteer.

Finally, I must take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy New Year. 2021 must surely be better than 2020!

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood
Headteacher