



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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Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter outlines the main arrangements that we are putting in place in order to safely welcome pupils back into school from 8th March. There will be more detail to follow nearer the time, but I wanted to update you so that you and your child(ren) can plan accordingly.

Asymptomatic testing of pupils

The Department for Education has instructed schools to make provision for all pupils to be tested 3 times, 3 to 5 days apart, in school from 8th March. Subsequent testing will take place at home and pupils will be given test kits to take home with them. This testing is an important part of the plans for the safe return of pupils. If you have not already given your consent for your child to be tested then please complete this form: [Test Consent Form](#). Pupils aged 16 or older may complete this form themselves, but should consult with their parents/carers.

Pupils who have tested positive for Covid-19 in the previous 90 days will not be tested, but it will be useful to have the consent form completed in order that testing can resume after the 90 days have expired. If your child has tested positive for Covid-19 at any time it would be helpful if you could also complete this very short Google Form as this will greatly reduce the administrative burden for us in finding out this information: [Notification of Positive Test Form](#).

The table below summarises our plans for the first test in school and the return to lessons date for each year group.

Year groups	First test day	First day back in school for lessons
10, 11, 12, 13	Monday 8th March	Tuesday 9th March, 8.30 am
7, 8, 9	Tuesday 9th March	Wednesday 10th March, 8.30 am

I will write to you again with a precise time slot for your child for their first test. On the first testing day pupils will only come in to be tested and will then leave the site and they are likely to be on site for 20-30 minutes. Results will be reported electronically. We cannot test anyone without their consent and pupils can withdraw their consent later if they choose. Testing is voluntary and pupils

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who have not been tested will be allowed to return to school, but please note that participation in the testing programme is an important part of our precautionary measures. We have been testing pupils of all ages in school for several weeks and they have quickly become used to carrying them out without any problems. We will support pupils with carrying out the tests and give more guidance to them before the first test date. Although some do feel anxious about these tests they really are very easy to administer and I can assure you that we have a trained team of staff who will be on hand to help if needed.

Amendments to remote lessons

In order to prepare for the return of pupils to school and to accommodate the first testing on site we will need to make some amendments to our remote learning provision. Please note the following:

<p>Friday 5th March</p>	<p>This is now a 'Catch Up Day' for all years (moved from Thursday 4th March). There will be no lessons on that day apart from some 6th Form classes (individual staff will communicate with their groups about this). This will enable pupils to prepare all they need for their return to school and give staff time to make everything ready for them.</p> <p>Pupils currently attending school who fall into the critical worker/vulnerable categories can continue to attend but we are requesting non-attendance as there will be significant work taking place on site in order to prepare the school for the following week. Please email the school at admin@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk if you would like to request that your child attends school on this day.</p>
<p>Monday 8th March</p>	<p>Remote lessons for Years 10-13 will be restricted to only parts of the day in order that pupils can attend school for testing. Details of which lessons will be affected will follow soon. Remote lessons for Years 7-9 will continue to follow the usual timetable.</p> <p>Pupils currently attending school who fall into the critical worker/vulnerable categories can continue to attend on this day.</p>
<p>Tuesday 9th March</p>	<p>Remote lessons for Years 7-9 will be restricted to only parts of the day in order that pupils can attend school for testing. Details of which lessons will be affected will follow soon.</p> <p>Pupils in Years 7-9 currently attending school who fall into the critical worker/vulnerable categories should only attend school for their test. They should otherwise remain at home until resuming school on Wednesday 10th March.</p>

Masks

I will write to you again next week with some updates about our precautionary measures. One change that has been made by the DfE is that the wearing of masks should now take place in classrooms as well as in communal areas and corridors wherever two-metre social distancing cannot be maintained. Please could you ensure that your child has at least one mask in school at all times - we would advise always having a spare just in case. Re-usable masks should be cleaned daily so pupils should have sufficient supplies across the week. The wearing of masks in classrooms is a temporary measure and will be reviewed at Easter.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) Pupils and Staff

Staff and pupils who have been issued with a shielding letter should continue to work from home until further notice. This means that some of our staff will be unable to return to school and any lessons will be covered or occasionally taught remotely for 6th Form lessons. Thank you for your understanding with this.

It will be necessary to write to you again over the coming days as more details become available, so please do keep checking your emails. I do try to keep these letters as brief as possible but I hope that you understand the need to keep you informed and impart key details. Against the background of all the detailed organisational work that we are doing to get ready to welcome pupils back into school we are all very much looking forward to seeing them again!

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood
Headteacher