



Bishop Douglass Catholic School

An Academy School in the Cardinal Hume Academies Trust

Headteacher: Mr Martin Tissot, MA, MBA, NPQH

13th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of the academic year, we look back and reflect on what has been the most extraordinary year. Despite the difficulties we have faced, our community has strived on and we can still look back to the many successes of our young people celebrated in this Summer Edition of The Douglass and the Parent Newsletters we have been sending you. Your support parents and carers has been wonderful and we would also like to thank all the staff for their hard work in ensuring online lessons and work was provided to all our students.

The Department for Education has issued its guidance for the full opening of schools in September. The senior team have spent some time considering the guidance to ensure that the return to school is as safe as possible whilst ensuring the least possible detriment to children's learning. On our return, staff are asked to maintain distance from pupils as much as possible, ideally 2 metres away and minimise the time they spend within 1 m of anyone. All desks will face the front and there will be a line in yellow tape marking two metres from each teacher's desk.

On your child's return to school, children travelling to school by public transport will need to arrive within a specific time window e.g. Year 7 8.30am-8.40am. Year 8 will arrive 8.30am-8.40am. Year 9 8.40am-8.50am. Year 10 8.40am-8.50am Year 11 8.40am-8.50am. This will allow for staggered pressure on the public transport system. However, those that are able to walk or cycle to school can arrive outside these designated times. A reminder that from September the 611 school bus is replaced by the extended route 112. Please visit <https://tfl.gov.uk/> for details. This will mean that your child will need an extra 9 minutes to walk from the North Circular to school. Please remind them of the importance of road safety and that they are only to cross the East End Road at the traffic lights. I attach a flyer from Barnet Council about Road Safety, for your information. They will also have to follow the safety guidance for using public transport <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>.

Government guidance states that children should take any masks, visors, or latex gloves off when they come into school. However, children may wear a surgical face mask only in school (no other type is allowed) and gloves if they so wish to do. The latest advice is that there is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in a school. Therefore, we are expecting children to respect the school uniform protocols.

When children arrive, they must make their way to their dedicated area of the playground (it will be divided into zones) after washing their hands. Please ensure they bring enough equipment of their own to avoid sharing resources. Lunches will be staggered. We will begin by issuing packed lunches to those who receive Free School Meals and they will be able to be purchased by others for £2.35. However, we would suggest that if you can, your child brings their own food. To help us with planning, please complete this survey as to what your intentions will be

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<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZLXM22L>. We are looking to run some parent support sessions in preparation for September and would like to know how we can help you.

We will stagger the times and the routes that year groups leave the school, so that pupils do not all descend upon transport routes at the same time. Year 7 will begin by leaving the school slightly early having a shortened period 5 at 3pm. Years 8 and 9 will finish at 3.10 pm. Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form are likely to have a period 6 lesson and so will leave later. Breakfast and Evening Prep will still continue in socially distanced bubbles separated into Year groups.

It is important that you or another adult is able to collect your child quickly from school if they become unwell. Please ensure we have your up to date contact details and let us know if you have changed, address, telephone number, email or if there is a change in your child's health condition, as soon as possible. Below is the link to government guidelines of what to do, if you or a member of your household is unwell. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

In order to minimise the number of contacts a child has, we are planning that lessons from Year 7 to 9 will be in class groups and each class will have mixed ability teaching. Pupils will be broadly streamed to allow this to happen. There may be some movement to facilitate specialist teaching for example Maths and English grouping. Year groups will be assigned various separate parts of the school and most of their teaching will take in a suite of rooms next to each other, assigned exclusively to that year group. Thus teachers will move rather than pupils. Pupils must not frequent, play with, associate with, walk home with, pupils from any other grouping other than their own year group, *unless they live in the same household*. Pupils will be expected to socially distance from each other and will wash hands frequently at least 5 times a day.

We are not planning that any years will have any alteration to their normal timetables. We will continue to ensure that remote education is in place should the school need to close temporarily to control transmission.

We will be revisiting the risk assessment that we compiled to prepare for Year 10 and Year 12 on site and will share a draft with you on the website, before the end of term.

Early on in the new term we will be asking that Years 11 and 13 prepare for tests exclusively on the material that was covered from March to July. We will send home clear topic lists and syllabus extracts so that pupils are clear what they have to learn.

In preparation for the start of the autumn term, note some areas to be mindful of whilst preparing for the start of next year:

- School shoes.
- Trousers/skirt – full-length trousers must cover the ankle.
- School bag- blue or black. This bag must be large enough to hold A4 size books and folders. Handbags/totes and fashion bags are not permitted.
- Haircuts- neat and appropriate. In line with school policy. No exaggerated styles.
- Coats/jackets. Must be Black or Dark navy blue.
- Earrings. Must be small silver/gold stud only.
- Mobile phones are strictly prohibited and will be confiscated.

Finally, please ensure your child has all the necessary equipment for September. In addition to the usual blue/black biros, ruler, pencils and maths equipment, each child will need to bring a few green pens, a pocket dictionary and a reading book (fiction) to school every day.



To boost your child's chances of success next year and consolidate what has been for the majority, good levels of progress, we will continue our comprehensive intervention programmes in September. Evening study with a free hot meal at 5.45pm, homework club and 5 o'clock club will also re-start in earnest. Please encourage your child to do some studying in the holidays so that they do not lose momentum. Holiday homework and reading has been issued.

The new school term starts on Thursday 3rd of September for new Year 7 students **ONLY** and Monday 7th September for the rest of the school. 6th form induction day will take place on Thursday 3rd, Year 12 Induction will take place on Friday 4th with normal lessons beginning on Monday 7th September.

If you have you need to contact us or have any questions about anything in this letter email: schooladmin@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk.

I wish you and your family a thoroughly enjoyable and restful holiday over the summer break. I can only thank you sincerely for the way that you supported our pupils during this difficult period. I know that the spirit of Bishop Douglass will prevail and we will pull together in the new term to make a success of things.

With my best wishes,



Mrs Michelle Henderson
Head of School

