



# Bishop Douglass Catholic School

*An Academy School in the Cardinal Hume Academies Trust*

Headteacher: Mr Martin Tissot, MA, MBA, NPQH

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and your family,

I hope you have had a chance to enjoy the summer break and on behalf of all the staff, we are looking forward to your daughter/son's return and getting back into a routine and the new normal. We are planning for a full return in September. We are confident that our return in the Autumn term will be both safe and healthy and have been working out systems and protective steps to ensure this.

A reminder that the new school term starts on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September for new Year 7 students **ONLY** and Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September for the rest of the school. 6<sup>th</sup> form enrolment will take place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Year 12 Induction will take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> with normal lessons beginning on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. We will teach our pupils in year group bubbles, in dedicated zoned areas in the school. All desks will face the front. Children may wear a surgical facemask (no other type is allowed) and gloves if they wish to do so. Keeping safe means that pupils will be asked to confine their contact to those within their year group and this rule applies to, from, and at school.

If children use public transport to get to school, then we require them to arrive during dedicated time slots. We are asked, to encourage all our pupils to cycle and walk to school to avoid the crowding that occurs on public transport. TfL have updated their latest travel plans for schools for September; please see the link below for your information. It also has a short video, if your child is feeling anxious about using public transport.

<https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/schools-and-young-people/travel-guidance-for-schools?cid=reopeningeducation#on-this-page-0>

We are asking that year groups arrive at staggered times in September: 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. However, those that walk to school or cycle can arrive by 8.45am. Those that cycle are asked to take particular care on busy roads. It is advised that cyclists wear a facemask to reduce the impact of pollution and ensure that they use a safety helmet. Children of the same household may arrive at school together if they are walking to school and those that walk or cycle can arrive at any time before 8.40am.

We want to avoid the possibility of parents crowding the school entrance and exits and compromising social distance arrangements. Thus if you plan to meet a child after school, it



would be a good idea to specify a meeting place a short distance from the school and wear a mask. Please note, there is very limited space in the reception area at the front of the school, so please avoid coming into the school unless there is an imperative reason to do so, you will be required to wear a facemask if you do come into the school.

When children are in school we will be speaking to them regularly about the importance of reducing transmission risk by following good hygiene practices, washing hands on arrival to school at break-time and lunchtime and not sharing equipment such as pens and pencils. We will also ask them to continue to walk silently in corridors and ensure they keep their distance in corridors and when queuing for facilities such as in the library or by the toilets. When they use computers at school or change desks, they will wipe down the area before and after use. We will have a ready stock of disinfectant wipes in school. Initially, there will only be packed lunches available to buy from school and we expect many pupils will bring in their own food. Please ensure your child's lunch account is topped up via Parentpay. Food should not be shared with others. We expect everyone to do their best to co-operate with social distancing and hygiene rules and breaches of the disciplinary code in this regard may lead to disciplinary sanctions.

If children have any symptoms of Coronavirus e.g. new cough, headache, temperature and/or a loss of taste or smell, then they should not be in school. Any children exhibiting symptoms of Coronavirus will be sent home promptly. Please make sure that your emergency contact number is up-to-date and that you are contactable, in case we need to discuss whether we allow your child to make their own way home or whether you will be able to get to school promptly to collect them. We undertake to provide test and trace support so that your child and other members of your households can be tested quickly. It is particularly important to update us of any health conditions and difficulties; please return the tear-off slip below with updated information. If you have been abroad, please check the government website for the latest quarantine guidance to follow and advise us accordingly.

If we require a meeting with you, we will offer the chance to meet over Zoom rather than bringing you into the school, thereby reducing the transmission risk.

We want all children to come to school but if children have to stay off because they have symptoms, then we will do our best to provide remote education support. Thank you very much for your support with this. Those in Year 11 and Sixth form will be having assessments in September and it is important that they continue to revise for these.

I attach a frequently asked questions sheet for your information, but do telephone or contact us at [schooladmin@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:schooladmin@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk) if you would like to speak with us about your child. It is normal for children to be feeling a variety of things at this time, please talk through any concerns that they might have. Let us know if we can help in any way.

With my best wishes,



Mrs Michelle Henderson  
Head of School



**Reply slip to be returned to Student Services**

**Childs Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Form:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Change in Health Conditions:**

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**Change to contact details/Additional Information:**

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**Parent/Carer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

