



Bishop Douglass Catholic School

An Academy School in the Cardinal Hume Academies Trust

Headteacher: Mr Martin Tissot, MA, MBA, NPQH

Dear Parents/Carers and your family,

25th February 2021

Return to School Week Beginning 8th March

Thankfully, in keeping with the Government announcements on Monday, we intend to bring students back into school from the 8th of March. We are looking forward to your daughter/son's return and getting back into a routine. Our plan is to test all children, using the rapid lateral flow test, on Monday the 8th and Tuesday 9th March. An appointment day and time will be sent to you for this. This will facilitate a full return of all students on Wednesday the 10th March. We are determined and confident that the return in will be Covid-19 safe and we will continue with our systems and protective steps to ensure this. In the first two weeks we are asked to administer two more tests and will then provide kits for testing at home.

It is now mandatory to wear face masks in school and as before, students must wear a mask at all times whilst in the building, unless they are eating or involved in physical activity. Please do give permission when your appointment is allocated, so that your child can be tested. We are hoping for 100% compliance please.

Exam Year Groups (Year 11 and 13)

If your child was due to sit an external exam this year, we are waiting for further details of how we will assign examination grades. The good news is that, hopefully, we will have recourse to a wide range of evidence to enable us to make a fair and accurate judgement. We will outline shortly in writing the basis upon which we will proceed.

On our return on March 10th, we expect pupils to be in full school uniform. If there are any issues with this, please let us know and we will try to help you. If you have any outgrown uniform items at home, we would be grateful if you could hand these into school, so we can provide them to another family in need. As before, 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 or a plain black, blue or grey facemask and also gloves. We will have a small stock of disposable masks for sale at 20p. Keeping safe means that pupils will be asked to social distance and confine their contact to those within their year group; this rule applies to, from, and at school. Sanctions may be applied for breaches to these requirements.



We are asked, to encourage all our pupils to walk to school if possible to avoid the crowding that occurs on public transport.

We are asking that year groups arrive at staggered times: Year 7 and Year 8, 8.30am-8.40am. Year 9, Year 10 and year 11 at 8.40am-8.50am. 6th Form at 8.45am. However, those that walk to school or cycle can arrive by 8.40am. Those that cycle are asked to take particular care on busy roads and ensure a lock for their bicycles. It is advised that cyclists wear a facemask to reduce the impact of pollution and ensure that they wear a safety helmet. Children of the same household may arrive at school together if they are walking to school.

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.

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. 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. Please ensure your child's lunch account is topped up via Parentpay.

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. 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 email us with updated information. 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.

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.

I attach a frequently asked questions sheet for your information, but do telephone or contact us at schooladmin@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk if you would like to speak with us. 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

