

Beal High School Woodford Bridge Road, Ilford, Essex, IG4 5LP Tel: 020 8551 4954 Email: admin@bealhighschool.co.uk www.bealhighschool.co.uk

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear parents/carers of Year 10 and Year 12 students (BHS and TFA Campus)

We hope you and your families are all well. We are writing to update you in line with the latest government guidance. From Monday June 15, the government's *ambition* is that secondary schools will offer some face-to-face learning for Years 10 and 12 subject to the government's five tests being met. This will be alongside the provision for vulnerable learners and children of key workers in all year groups as is currently in place in our school and all schools nationally.

We want to get back to what we do best which is teach your children face to face as soon as possible, but we recognise and support that this will need to be within certain parameters to keep everyone safe and that anything we write now is subject to change up to the 15 June and beyond. Therefore, within the government guidance, we do have the *flexibility* to implement face-to-face support for year 10 and year 12 students in the way that best suits their circumstances, including considerations around our staff availability and wellbeing.

We are in the process of deciding how best to do this in the interests of our students e.g. pastoral support, academic support, virtual learning and bridging units or a *blended* combination of these approaches. In order to do this we need to establish the potential number of students in Years 10 and 12 that will want to access face-to-face learning and are asking you respectfully to confirm your child's attendance, in principle, if wider opening goes ahead on June 15 and nothing changes between now and then.

Please email: <u>admin@bealhighschool.co.uk</u> by Friday 5 June confirming your child's attendance in principle, including your child's name and tutor group.

Once student numbers are confirmed, we will create an outline learning schedule and risk assessment we will share with you, subject to change and amendments up to and beyond the 15 June.

**GOVERNMENT EXPECTATIONS FROM JUNE 15** 



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The government expectations are that from 15 June, secondary schools are able to offer face-to-face support for a quarter of the year 10 and 12 cohort at any one time. Alongside this, the government is asking secondary schools to:

- continue providing full-time provision for vulnerable learners and children of key workers in all year groups (including year 10 and year 12) for the remainder of the summer term
- provide some *face-to-face* support to supplement the *remote* education of year 10 and year 12 students, with a clear expectation that remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups and that this should be of high quality
- continue to use best endeavours to support all other students remaining at home, making use of the available remote education support and ensuring a high quality offer

## MINIMISING RISKS AT SCHOOL

We will adopt a range of approaches and actions that, when implemented, will create a safer environment, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. This includes:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that students or staff who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- we will have contactless thermometers for any student or staff who feels unwell when in school and designated isolation areas where they can wait safely to be collected
- cleaning hands more often than usual students and staff will be encouraged to regularly wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces and toilets often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach at regular intervals.
- There will be clearly designated areas for each group, a schedule of cleaning after each session and a deep clean at the end of each day
- we have invested in the same sanitiser used by TfL currently that adheres to surfaces and protects them for up to a month vital for use in common areas, toilets and door handles in school.
- we are in the privileged position of having a twenty-six acre site and two large separate school buildings that can hold 1000 students each. This will enable us to separate Years 10 and 12, one group on the upper site and one group on the lower site
- It is not envisaged that students will be in all day every day, we will be adopting a flexible approach to maintain social distancing and health & safety guidelines

- minimising contact and mixing, as far as possible and keeping those groups as consistent as possible whilst in school (e.g. for arrival, break and departure) and altering the school environment (e.g. changing classroom layouts so desks are further apart or dividing groups into different classrooms and working outside in subjects like art and geography)
- operating a 'continental day' so we avoid the increased risk of transmission at lunchtimes.
- ask all students and staff to bring their own drinks and snacks to avoid transmission.
- Students will not be expected to wear uniform to enable them to wash and change their clothes daily in line with transmission reduction guidance
- Scheduled lessons will be filmed and shared with those students that are unable to attend.

## MINIMISING RISKS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

- when finalising plans we will ensure how and when our students travel to and from school. Students will be encouraged to *walk* or *cycle* where possible.
- we will avoid peak travel times and adopt *staggered starts* for our students and staff.
- years 10 and 12 will be able to arrive at separate entrances, the upper site entrance on Woodford Bridge Road and the lower site entrance on Woodford Avenue

We appreciate this letter will not answer all of your concerns, but is a starting point to enable us to action the wider opening of our school from June 15 and rest assured we will not put any of our students or staff at risk.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents and carers for supporting your child's learning and hope we can work together to create some 'normality' and certainty for our students in the coming weeks in school.

Kindest regards,

Kathryn Burns

**Executive Principal** 

Yvonne Andress

Tandross

Co-Headteacher

Phil Bray

Co-Headteacher