



BEVERLEY HIGH SCHOOL



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Dear Parent/Carer and Student

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well and that you have had a good summer to date.

As promised I am writing with further information about our full reopening in September. We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 and Year 12 and welcoming back all other year groups.

Attendance

The government has informed us that school attendance will be mandatory again for all students of compulsory school age from the beginning of the autumn term.

They acknowledge that a small number of students will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have/have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19).

Shielding advice for all adults and children paused on 1 August, following a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). Where children are unable to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

If parents of students with significant risk factors are concerned, parents are asked to contact school to discuss their concerns, prior to this they should have consulted with their child's medical specialist. Parents of students who are reluctant or anxious about returning should also contact school.

Covid Symptoms and Testing

We must ensure that students, staff and other adults do not come into school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or have tested positive in the last 10 days.

If anyone develops symptoms during the school day they will be sent home immediately, this is essential to reduce the risk in school and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). Parents/carers must understand that, at short notice, they may need to collect their child or make arrangements for them to go home. Any students and staff who have been in close contact with students showing symptoms do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves.

Staff members and parents/carers must understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- book a test if they are displaying symptoms.
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test & Trace
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive



Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test.

We will also ask parents and staff to inform us immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating.
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are becoming part of our everyday lives, on public transport, in shops and in hospitals etc. The purpose of face coverings is to protect others from those who are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic. For most of the school day students will be mixing in consistent groups, the so-called 'bubbles'. However, there will be times in the school day: on arrival, departure and moving to specialist teaching rooms when we will not be able to guarantee the security of your child's bubble despite our best efforts to map entry and exit doors and walking routes. Therefore, the school will require students to wear a face covering when they are not in lessons, the maximum length of time they will wear them for is 5 minutes. Obviously as with the guidance for elsewhere there will be exceptions for those students with medical issues etc.

We will discuss with students on their first day in school the safe wearing, removal and storage of face coverings, although we are sure that you will already have had these conversations with your child. Please can you ensure that your child has a face covering and a suitable small bag/purse/pocket to store it in.

Whilst on duty and moving around the school site staff will also wear a face covering or face shield. Staff may also be wearing face shields in classrooms.

Social distancing

In corridors and outside areas floor markings will remind students of the need for social distancing. Within their bubbles students are not required to maintain social distancing but they should not touch classmates. A lot of work has been done over the summer to maximise the floor space in classrooms, to remove surplus furniture and to rearrange desks so that they are forward facing.

Arrival at school

We encourage parents, staff and students to walk or cycle to school if at all possible or to travel by car, though car sharing between households is not permitted.

Parents/carers should not gather at the school gates nor come onto the school site without an appointment. The preferred means of communication during this time is email and/or telephone. Visitors will not be permitted onto the school site during school hours.

It is recommended that students limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as lunch boxes, coats, books, stationery and mobile phones. Bags are allowed. Lockers will not be available.

Please find below a reminder about the start of term arrangements and the timing of the school day, as detailed in my letter of 17th July.



September Start Dates

Monday 7th September – Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 8th September – Teacher Training Day

Wednesday 9th September – only the new Year 7 will return to school

Thursday 10th September – the new Year 10 and Year 13 will return to school along with the new Year 7

Friday 11th September – the new Year 11 and Year 12 will return to school along with the new Year 7 and the new Year 10

Monday 14th September – all year groups will be in school

Timing of the School Day

Parents do need to be aware that the timing of the school day will change. The start time will now be 08.45 and the finish time will be 3.00pm. We are not reducing teaching time at all, each day will still comprise tutor time and five 60 minute lessons. We are reducing break-time by 5 minutes and lunchtime by 30 minutes. We have worked in partnership with Beverley Grammar School, the Local Authority and transport services in order to make this change. This change is on a temporary basis and, with the Grammar School, we will keep it under review as the term progresses.

Please note that when school returns in September there will be no breakfast club, extra-curricular activities such as music/sport or after school LRC provision due to the need not to mix bubbles.

A further letter will be sent to parents/carers and students on Tuesday 8 September with further more detailed arrangements for your child's first day back including which gate students should enter by and which classroom they should make their way to once on the school site.

Take care, stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Japp

