

## **Attendance policy during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:**

The coronavirus outbreak has created exceptional circumstances for pupil attendance at school. Therefore, from June 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 and until further notice, our attendance policy focuses on the latest government advice for reducing the risk of transmission of the virus.

We have addressed the questions that you might have in regard to your child's attendance and have outlined our temporary attendance policy:

### **Should my child attend school?**

Parents of Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students are asked to keep their children at home wherever possible. The government encourage 'eligible children – including priority groups...to attend their educational setting', if parents are key workers or their child/children are classed as vulnerable (see below for more details).

Furthermore, in line with general COVID-19 advice the government states,

'No one with symptoms should attend a setting for any reason. If someone in their household is extremely clinically vulnerable, children should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to, and the child is able to understand and follow those instructions.'

### **Will I be fined if my child does not attend school?**

Parents will not be fined for non-attendance. All absence will be classed as authorised.

### **What should I do if my child is in Year 10 or 12 and they cannot attend their allocated time in school?**

If your child is in Year 10 or 12 and they cannot attend their scheduled time in school please contact BHS in the normal way to notify staff of the reason for this absence. This is of high importance if your child has COVID-19 symptoms and they have been in contact with other students.

### **I am a key worker, can my child / children attend school when Year 10 and 12 have returned?**

BHS has organised provision for the students of key workers to attend school. This provision will continue when Year 10 and 12 are in school.

### **Do the normal school hours apply?**

Children of key workers are in school from 8.40am to 3.35pm.

Students in year 10 and 12 will have staggered start and end time and they will have slightly shortened day. Further details of this will be provided by letter to the student/parents.

In order to reduce transmission of the virus the government has stated that, 'secondary schools should ensure that only a quarter of pupils in year 10 and year 12 are in school at any one time.' Year 10 students will be allocated 2 days in school between the 15<sup>th</sup> June and the 17<sup>th</sup> July. The students will be taught Maths, English, Science and MFL. The designated days for year 10 students are Tuesday and Wednesday. Year 12 students will be invited into school on Mondays and Thursdays between 10am and 2pm to attend one small group (max 3) for a 30-minute appointment with each of their three subject teachers.

### **Who else should attend school?**

The government guidelines also state that 'Vulnerable children and young people's attendance is expected, where it is appropriate for them (that is, where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household, and/or following a risk assessment for children with an EHC plan) so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending.' For a more detailed overview of this please see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

This is a difficult time for all, if you feel that your child is struggling at home then please contact the school in the normal way so that we can look at how we can support you and your family.

**However, please remember that your child cannot attend school unless they are in the allocated teaching group or accessing vulnerable pupils /key worker provision.** If you would like to access this provision please notify the office at least 7 days before to reserve a place for your child/ children. We will need to be in receipt of a completed application form before we are able to offer your child / children a place.

If you would like more information please see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing#attendance>

9<sup>th</sup> June 2020