



# Bramcote College

A member of The White Hills Park Trust

16<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

As we are now in our third week, I wanted to write to you to thank you for your overwhelming support for the safe return to school of all of our students and staff; it has been wonderful to have our students back in lessons and all of the staff have been impressed by how adaptable and enthusiastic your children have been in getting back into school. I also wanted to clarify some details of the changes we have put in place due to the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in, most of which I outlined in my letter in July and on the 'Back to school' page on our website.

In school our priority is creating a safe and productive learning environment; in order to achieve this we have had to make several changes due to the Coronavirus situation and in response to the expectations set out in Government guidelines. This has led us to make some adjustments to our behaviour and uniform policies and to some of our day to day systems which I want to outline in more detail.

## Uniform

Government guidelines on uniform state:

*"It is for the governing body of a school (or the academy trust, in the case of academies) to make decisions regarding school uniform. Some schools may have relaxed their uniform policy while only certain categories of pupils were attending. We would, however, encourage all schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. Uniform can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal."*

In light of students being out school uniform for several months we have allowed a degree of flexibility on this, however, over the coming weeks it will be essential for all students to adhere to the full policy on uniform as we return to our usual standards and expectations with regards student behaviour, attitude to learning and preparedness for the school day. Our normal expectations apply to uniform, jewellery, hair and make up (which is outlined in student planners and on our website), however, we have made adjustments to allow students to come into school in their PE kits on days when they have PE. As the weather becomes cooler, students who do not have the PE kit "Trust 1/4 zip training top" will need to wear a warm outer layer of clothing over their first layer of clothing which should be the school PE T-shirt. Currently a handful of students do not have the school PE training top and are coming into school in non-uniform hoodies or sweatshirts, which needs to be addressed. We appreciate that the additional cost of the training top may be an issue, especially due to the current economic pressures many of us are facing due to Coronavirus, so we are introducing the following adaptation: students may wear a black sweatshirt (not hoodie) with one small logo on it (no larger than a bank card) over their PE kit T-shirt. Hoodies other than the school D of E or red WHP Trust hoodies are not allowed in school at all; if students are wearing non-school uniform items, the usual rules will apply. We do, however, have a selection of brand-new black sweatshirts which can be given to student on request to keep and wear to school on PE days.

## **Face Coverings**

In addition to this change regarding PE kit, we have also asked all students to have a disposable or reusable mask with them in school (disposable masks are readily available at Student Support if students need one). Students have been asked to wear their mask if they are queuing in the dining hall (and will be sent to get one if they do not have one). Students are also allowed to wear their masks when moving around the school and in lessons if they feel more comfortable with it on. Masks must be worn properly, covering the nose and mouth, or stored properly when not being worn. We will be following Government guidance with regards to the use of facemasks, which means that this may change to reflect any local or national changes which are introduced by the Government.

## **Corrections**

While we are very impressed by how well our students have started the new school year and coped with the changes that are coming their way, on occasions, it may be necessary to correct and improve the behaviour of a small proportion of our students. We currently have a ten minute correction (TMCs) system which runs after school (without needing to inform parents) for low level behaviours which students are aware of. Alongside this, we will be introducing a 20 minute, no notice correction after school, which will be used in response to inappropriate behaviour, or disruption of the learning environment if this behaviour cannot be followed up at break or lunch time. Ordinarily corrections like this would take place during the day, however, we have had to adapt this, as we have had to change access to the dining hall and to allow for social distancing and to maintain year group 'bubbles', which means it may not always be possible to follow this up immediately after lessons without impacting on students' access to the dining hall to buy food.

We will continue to use 4pm Correction which parents / carers will be notified of by text message, no later than 2:30pm on the day of the Correction. We may also need to implement a 4:30pm Friday SLT Correction for repetitive concerns and issues, however, we will contact parents/carers directly to discuss this if it is necessary.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support and take this opportunity to stress that these measures are only applied when necessary and only affect students who behave in a way that is not aligned with the culture and ethos of the school. On the whole, the majority of our students continue to do exceptionally well at Bramcote College and they have returned to school in a positive manner, which has made the transitions and changes to how we are running school seamless. We are continuing to award INSPIRE points for positive behaviour and good work done in school, as well as our wider rewards scheme which recognises great effort, attendance and participation in school.

## **Covid-19**

Finally, I would also like to remind you that if your child has any Covid-like symptoms, please do not send them to school. If students are in school and are coughing excessively or presenting any other symptoms, we will send them home and ask you to request a Covid test and share the results with us. Similarly, if anyone in the immediate household / close family has symptoms and your child has been in contact with them, a period of 14 days of self-isolation may be necessary; NHS 111 can advise you further on this. If your child is at home and is well enough to work, we will make work available on Teams. Students will also be receiving logins for Century Tech which our new on-line learning platform for Maths, English and Science for Years 7 to 11.

## **Travelling to and from school**

I would like to remind students that they represent Bramcote College in our community when they are in

their school uniform, so our expectations to be polite and responsible extends beyond the school gate. However, students should also be mindful of their responsibilities to the community they live in at all times and as such should be aware of practicing social distancing, especially on the way to and from school and follow the 'rule of 6' when they are out. I would also like to remind students who cycle to school that they must wear a bike helmet and obtain a bike pass from reception if they don't already have one and they must ride their bikes in a safe and responsible way.

We don't know what this year will bring. I can, however, reassure you of our ongoing commitment to our students and their learning.

With kindest regards,

Heidi Gale  
Headteacher  
Bramcote College