

2nd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you and your family well.

I am writing to you to confirm the arrangements for testing of students beginning this week and their return to school on Wednesday 10th March next week, which we are all very much looking forward to.

Students with consent to be tested will be tested on the following days at the following start times:

Please ensure that students arrive at the main hall at their allocated time. Parents are asked not to come into the building, if you are accompanying your child, you may wish to wait in the main car park or at the bottom of the school drive. While we have planned what we believe will be an efficient and swift process, testing may take as long as 30 minutes

Thursday 4th March (and Monday 8th March) – Years 10, 11, 12 and 13

Arrival time	Tutor Group
9:00	6 th Form Students (more details sent to students by Melissa Rigley)
11:00	10 KIN 10 KIR (Year 10s who register with Mrs Kirby)
11:10	10 DON
11:30	10 STR
11:50	10 VIZ
13:30	11 FRN 11 KIR (Year 11s who register with Mrs Kirby)
13:50	11 BRO
14:00	11 STZ

Friday 5th March (and Tuesday 9th March) – Years 7, 8 and 9

Arrival time	Tutor Group
8:45	7 HOW 7 KIR (Year 7s who register with Mrs Kirby)
9:05	7 MCK
9:25	7 AGR
9:40	7 THO
9:55	7 NOA
11:00	8 BNG
11:20	8 HEW
11:40	8 GID
12:00	8 HLL
12:15	8 CLA 8 KIR (Year 8s who register with Mrs Kirby)
13:30	9 MAL 9 KIR (Year 9s who register with Mrs Kirby)
13:50	9 GUL 9 GAR
14:10	9 FER
14:30	9 JHN 9 BMA (Year 9s who register with Mr Marlow)

Students are asked to stick to their time slot as we are testing over 450 children every 2 days, so the timings are tight. When they arrive at school, students need to come up through the bottom foyer doors (from the yard) and into the main hall for registering with a staff member. They will then be escorted in small socially distanced groups to our testing facilities in the green gym.

Students are expected to wear masks at all times when they are on the school site, unless they are exempt from wearing one for medical reasons.

It is very important to note that if your child or anyone in your household has COVID-like symptoms on or shortly before the testing day, your child should not come into school for a lateral flow test, but instead, please book an appointment at a testing centre for a PCR test. If they say they have got symptoms when they arrive at our testing facilities, we will send students home with a PCR test to complete and register at home.

If your child is anxious about what to expect, it is worth watching the testing video on our website which shows how our testing facilities are set up. To do so, please follow this link:

<https://bramcote.college/parents-and-students/covid-19-testing> Students will do their own test, as part of the reason the Government has asked us to run these tests is to show students how to test themselves as there are plans to provide home testing kits for all students, which we are awaiting more information about from Public Health England.

Once the tests are completed a result text / email should be sent within approximately 30 minutes (although could take longer due to the numbers being processed) to the mobile number / email address you have provided. Students are asked to go straight home after they have had their test.

This process and these time slots will be repeated on both testing days. If the time slot your child has been allocated is impossible for you, please get in touch with us at school.

If we do not have consent for your child to be tested then we are not able to test them, so please don't send them in for a test.

I would like to remind you that when we do return to school next Wednesday, if your child or anyone in the household has COVID-like symptoms it is essential that you do not send your child to school and that you call 119 or go to www.gov.uk for more information on booking test.

Return to school on Wednesday 10th March

We are very much looking forward to getting back to the business of teaching and having all of our students back in school and while I am sure that some students will have some understandable anxieties, we continue to work hard to make school as secure as possible.

On Wednesday 10th March students will be starting the day at their normal times; Year 7s are asked to be in tutor time at 8:45 and Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 are asked to be in tutor time at 8:50. We have decided to use lesson 1 as an extended tutor time so we can check that students are ready to start school again and to give them time to catch up, ask questions and settle back in again. There are very few changes compared to the school experience before Christmas, with one important exception; the Government have now said that *where students cannot be socially distanced (by 2 metres) in a classroom they must wear a mask in lessons, as well as in public spaces such as corridors and the dining room*. We have a supply of masks available at student support if your child forgets to bring one onto school, or theirs is broken. Can I also encourage regular changing and washing of facemasks if they are not disposable masks. If your child is exempt from wearing a mask, please ensure that they wear their lanyard from Wednesday and if they have lost it, they will need to come to Student Support to request

a replacement. We will continue to have hand sanitiser available throughout the school and in classrooms.

If Wednesday is a PE day for your child they will need to come into school wearing their PE kit. We had noticed that last term PE kits were becoming an issue for a small number of students, so I would to remind you that ideally students will be in the full WHP Trust PE kit, however, if necessary, students may wear plain black jogging bottoms, and a plain black sweatshirt (not a hoodie) with logos no larger than a bank card. We are able to support in purchasing PE kits if this would help and we are also aware that a few of the most popular sizes are low or out of stock at our uniform suppliers, if this is the case, could you please write a note for your child or email their form tutor to let them know. Children will have potentially put on a growth spurt over the past two months so it may be worth checking that uniform fits, especially trousers and skirt lengths.

I would also like to remind you about our 'natural appearance' expectations, which may require some attention if there have been some lockdown makeovers. Students are not expected to wear makeup, false eyelashes, or painted or false nails in school and students' hair must also be a natural colour, with no extreme styles. We also expect students to keep jewellery to a minimum, with one pair of small plain earrings only (other piercings are not permitted, this includes nasal piercings which might be obscured by a face covering).

It is also important for students to remember that the school is a no phone zone, meaning that phones should not be seen or heard on site; this may be difficult having had weeks of full access to their phones, and we are aware that we may need to emphasise that phones should not be used in school unless given specific permission by a teacher. We do not expect students to check their phones in lessons or at break and lunch time and we expect students to bring any concerns they have to Student Support, rather than being tempted to text / phone home; we are here to help and students must use us in the first instance if they have any concerns.

As this is a time of considerable change which raises questions for all year groups for various reasons, I would like to encourage you and your child to get in touch with school if you have any worries either about returning to school, or about workload. We believe firmly in the resilience and commitment of your children and will work hard together to ensure that they are getting the very best education at Bramcote College and making good progress. I feel strongly that the media discussion about 'lost learning' and 'catch up' puts unnecessary pressure on children and want to reassure you and your child that we will be working with them to achieve their very best throughout their time with us regardless of this pandemic.

Warm regards,

Heidi Gale
Headteacher
Bramcote College