



11 September 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

By the end of this week, I would have had the pleasure of welcoming all the year groups back into Bramhall High School. It has been a busy start to my headship here, but it has been wonderful to see classrooms filled with students learning. It is a powerful reminder of the importance of education on academic, social and personal development. All the staff have missed our students, and some students have been brave enough to admit that they have missed school!

### **Covid Safety arrangements**

Of course, the Bramhall High School that we are welcoming students back to is quite different in some respects than the school you knew in March 2020. I would like to thank students, staff and parents for following the guidance and taking steps to protect themselves and others by reducing the risks of transmission. I do appreciate that both parents and students had to read the advice published over the summer holidays and were well prepared to begin the new academic year. The wearing of face masks has been exemplary around school. In addition, could the need for maintaining an appropriate social distance from both adults and other students be reinforced by parents over this weekend. This is a form of secondary education that has never been tried previously and so it will be a learning curve for us all.

Unfortunately, the last few days has seen a few students forgetting to bring their face mask to school. Equally the disposable masks we have provided to students to wear are not robust nor designed to be worn over several days. To this end we are offering parents the opportunity to purchase a fabric, breathable face mask. This mask is washable and reusable, making it more durable for everyday use. These are charged at £2 each and paid through the SCOPAY system. The masks will be available from reception to collect or purchase from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

### **Curriculum**

Bramhall High School has retained a full and balanced curriculum for all year groups, and we are operating a full timetable with a complete range of subjects. The guidance published by the government has required some adjustments to our day to day practice. Nonetheless, I am confident that we can turn this necessity to our advantage by ensuring that there is an intensity and focus to all the work undertaken in lessons.

### **Uniform**

At Bramhall High School, we believe that first impressions are important and for this reason, we expect our students to present themselves in a smart, business-like appearance at all times. By consistently wearing our school uniform to the highest standards, students are not only presenting a positive image of our school community, but also of themselves as individuals. Throughout this week many students have been congratulated on their presentation with the correct uniform being worn.

In order to meet the required standard, students are expected to wear our school uniform correctly, e.g. shirt tucked in, skirts not rolled up, top button fastened, school tie correctly worn, and blazer sleeves rolled down. Once again can parents please check that students have the correct uniform ready for Monday as staff will be focusing on this throughout next week. For your reference, a checklist of appropriate uniform is attached to this letter (Appendix 1). Can parents also notice the regulations on nose piercings (body piercings) as these are strictly prohibited and students will be challenged over these next week.

**Headteacher: Mr Paul Williams BSc (Hons), MAEd**

Bramhall High School, Seal Road, Bramhall, Stockport, SK7 2JT

Email: [Office@bramhallhigh.com](mailto:Office@bramhallhigh.com)

Telephone: 0161 439 8045

Website: [www.bhsweb.co.uk](http://www.bhsweb.co.uk)

### **Equipment**

To minimise risk to students and staff we are asking you to be certain that your child has all the necessary equipment when they come to school each day. This eliminates the need to lend/share equipment, which will not always be possible. Therefore, we would be grateful if all students brought their own:

- Face masks and spares
- Pens
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Green pen
- Glue stick
- Calculator
- Mathematics equipment set e.g. protractor (please see the examples emailed out earlier this year.)
- Coloured pencils

Where a student is in receipt of Pupil Premium, equipment will be provided e.g. calculators.

### **Transport**

You are likely to be aware that our school site has always been busy and is particularly so at the start and end of day. This week the heavy traffic has been particularly acute especially at the end of the day with parents collecting students after school. We have now implemented a staggered finish time for our year groups. May I ask parents to be considerate to our local community whilst waiting to collect students and avoid double parking or parking their cars on double yellow lines.

This week I have personally observed some students taking unnecessary risks whilst cycling to and from school. This has included students interweaving between traffic, riding quickly on pavements as well as wearing headphones. Equally the increase in traffic increases the potential hazards of both pedestrians and road users alike. This weekend would provide an ideal opportunity for parents to reinforce basic some road safety and awareness with students.

### **Test and Trace**

Finally, I would like to remind all families to ensure that any students who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 are kept off school until a negative test result can be obtained or they have completed the 10-day isolation period. The key symptoms to look out for are as follows:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

The details below are from the NHS guidance regarding Test and Trace (Appendix 2) that we are asked to share with you. It explains what happens in different scenarios. We hope you find it useful.

I would like to thank you for all your support over the past few months and as we approach this new future together. It is a great pleasure to once again see Bramhall High's corridors filled with smiles and learning as we work together on the best education possible, in the safest way possible. Have a restful weekend, and please do celebrate the fact that our children are now back at school!

## **Appendix 1**

### **Uniform**

All students are expected to wear the full school uniform as listed below at all times:

- Black blazer with school badge
- School tie - to be worn with the tie pushed up to shirt collar.
- White shirt or blouse (tucked in with top button fastened.)
- Boys' black tailored school trousers with black or grey socks.
- Girls' black skirt (knee length) or black tailored trousers with black tights or black socks.
- Black v-necked jumper. (Optional).
- Belts should be appropriate, plain and functional.
- **Face mask . Plain blue or black .**

### **Footwear**

- Students are to wear plain black footwear only\* (footwear must not have coloured emblems, logos, stripes or patterns.)
- Students should not wear canvas shoes – only plain leather shoes (not boots)
- Students should not wear shoes with anything more than a 20mm heel and all shoes must be safe and sturdy.

\* Illustrations of acceptable footwear are detailed on our website.

### **Outdoor Clothing**

- All outdoor coats should be plain navy blue or black only and should have no emblems, logos, stripes or patterns larger than 70mm x 70mm.
- No 'hoodies' are allowed at all.
- Plain black scarf, woollen fleece gloves/hat maybe worn outside the school building during cold weather.

### **Jewellery**

- One pair of plain stud earrings are allowed only to be worn in the ear lobes.
- A wrist watch may be worn.
- No other piercings or jewellery are acceptable.

### **Make Up/Nails**

- Make-up should not be worn in years 7, 8 and 9 but may be discretely applied from year 10 onwards.
- No nail varnish or false nails. All year groups.

### **Hairstyles**

- All students should have a traditional and appropriate hairstyle for school.
- Unnatural or split colours are not acceptable.
- Students should not have shaved patterns, lines, steps or shapes.
- Hair should be no shorter than a No. 1

### **Please note:**

- Tattoos, body piercing and other forms of 'body art' are inappropriate for children under 16 and will not be allowed in school.
- Mobile phones are allowed in school as a privilege and students are expected to take responsibility for using their phone wisely. Mobile phones should be in the bottom of a students and switched off during the hours of the school day.

## Appendix 2

Schools must ensure they understand the NHS Test and Trace process and how to contact their local [Public Health England health protection team](#). Schools must ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- [book a test](#) if they or their child are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- [self-isolate](#) if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or if anyone in their household develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus](#) website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

The government will ensure that it is as easy as possible to get a test through a wide range of routes that are locally accessible, fast and convenient. We will release more details on new testing avenues as and when they become available and will work with schools so they understand the quickest and easiest way to get a test. By the autumn term, all schools will be provided with a small number of home testing kits that they can give directly to parents/carers collecting a child who has developed symptoms at school, or staff who have developed symptoms at school, where they think providing one will significantly increase the likelihood of them getting tested. Advice will be provided alongside these kits.

Schools should ask parents and staff to inform them immediately of the results of a test and follow this guidance.

1. If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
2. If someone tests positive, they should follow the [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. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

### *9. Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community*

Schools must take swift action when they become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). Schools should contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact schools directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

The health protection team will work with schools in this situation to guide them through the actions they need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home. To support them in doing so, we recommend schools keep a record of pupils and staff in each group, and any close contact that takes places between children and staff in different groups (see [section 6 of the system of control](#) for more on grouping pupils). This should be a proportionate recording process. Schools do not need to ask pupils to record everyone they have spent time with each day or ask staff to keep definitive records in a way that is overly burdensome.

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). They should get a test, and:

- if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
- if the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and should isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

Schools should not request evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children or welcoming them back after a period of self-isolation.

In the majority of cases, schools and parents will be in agreement that a child with symptoms should not attend school, given the potential risk to others. In the event that a parent or guardian insists on a child attending school, schools can take the decision to refuse the child if in their reasonable judgement it is necessary to protect their pupils and staff from possible infection with coronavirus (COVID-19). Any such decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and the current public health advice.

Further guidance is available on [testing and tracing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

Many thanks for your time in reading these important messages.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Williams