



13 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I do hope you are keeping safe and well, it clearly is a very difficult time for everybody. I am writing as I just wanted to update you on a number of developments.

Critical worker students

The Department for Education has updated its guidance on students who have parents/carers who are critical workers. It stated that “parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.” This is about the numbers coming to school as some students may not need to be in school as there is a parent at home who could look after them. This is part of the lockdown strategy to reduce the number in the community whilst transmission rates are high. As stated in my previous communications, I would ask any parent in this position to seriously consider the government’s new guidance.

For those key worker and vulnerable students in school, please remember that no child should come to school if they are displaying COVID-19 symptoms.

Updated COVID safety rules

In response to the high infection rates and virulence of the new strain, there are new safety protocols in place in school from today. These apply to staff and students.

Face coverings

All staff and all students are directed to wear a face covering except when eating or drinking:

*Authorised exemptions must have the appropriate exemption sticker.

- At all times in any of the school buildings, except when there are no other persons in the room/vicinity. This means that all staff and all students must wear a face covering in lessons.
- Throughout the day students will be given regular comfort breaks outside. This will allow them to stretch their legs, get some fresh air and remove any face covering. These are in addition to current break and lunchtimes.
- Anywhere outside the school building when within **2m** of another person.
- In any form of transport with another person who is not in your support bubble.
- This applies even when in the room with the key worker/vulnerable students and even when supporting them. Masks must be worn at all times when supervising these groups except for when eating/drinking.

Keeping distance

Staff must maintain strict distance from both other staff and students when on site. There should be no face-to-face contact within one metre, if at all possible, even with face covering. This does not apply to student-to-student contact.

Summer exams

Again, the press is full of rumours about Year 11 having to sit some form of tests in the summer. There is no point in speculating what the government will decide. It is better for everyone’s sanity that we simply wait until we have the facts. All communication on these matters will come from our Examination Office or via Deputy Headteacher, Ms Joynson who has the oversight of examinations. In the meantime, it is our strong advice and expectation that Year 11 must keep working via remote learning as we do not know what evidence will be needed by the examination boards, regardless of the current speculation.

Headteacher: Mr Paul Williams BSc (Hons), MAEd

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

Email: Office@bramhallhigh.com

Telephone: 0161 439 8045

Website: www.bhsweb.co.uk

Remote Learning and live lessons

All those not in school should follow remote learning. Assistant Headteacher, Mr Wraith, holds the responsibility for remote education. He has previously written to you with the protocols for live lessons over Microsoft Teams. It is important that students follow the rules when engaging in live lessons; I will not tolerate any inappropriate or abusive behaviour towards other pupils or my staff. Our Behaviour Policy will be updated to reflect remote learning guidance; once updated it will be communicated to parents by Ms Lewis, Assistant Headteacher.

This is the first time we have attempted live online lessons on such a scale. I have already had a lot of positive feedback from parents, teachers and importantly students, who have said just how much they enjoyed and benefitted from having that live contact. This is out of the comfort zone of what teachers normally do and I thank my staff for engaging in this new technology. However, along with almost every other school I know, it clearly is an important development that schools will need to build on. It will not be without its teething problems and no system will be perfect. As such, it will be important to keep this under review. Alongside the feedback from teachers, your feedback as parents and that of your children will be critical.

Our approach to remote learning meets the criteria set out by the DFE but if you have any concerns about us not meeting the requirements, your first port of call is to contact Mr Wraith, Assistant Headteacher. If you need any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will discuss your concerns with you.

Weekly virtual assemblies and pastoral time

From next week there will be a weekly Core time scheduled with tutors. This will allow tutors to pass on any key messages or deliver an assembly to their tutor set. This will be done virtually via Microsoft Teams. Of course, pastoral staff remain contactable throughout this lockdown period and I encourage you to make contact if we can help in any way.

Covid testing

This week has seen the start of our pragmatic approach to the lateral flow tests, with many members of staff being the first to be tested. Our staff have undergone extensive training and we have commandeered some Science Laboratory's as a testing station, complete with testing booths. Information and consent forms have been set out to parents and staff and are available to download from our website. My thanks go to all the staff for all of the time they have put into this. No one should underestimate the scale of the task for schools in setting this up and how that removes staff from their other key roles during preparation and hereon in. Over the next couple of weeks, we hope to extend the testing to the students who are regularly attending school. May I reiterate that no student will take part without prior parental consent. Further information and suggested rota will be distributed shortly.

Contacts

As things are changing all the time, it is important that you have the right people to contact. Please find below some key names and email addresses.

Heads of Year

Y7	Mrs Sue Ahmed	sahmed@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Y8	Mrs A Conduit	aconduit@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Y9	Mrs S Stevens	sstevens@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Y10	Mr J Flynn	jflynn@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Y11	Miss S Magee	smagee@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Safeguarding support continues to be provided and managed in school by:

Miss Janet Kennedy, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) jkennedy@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Mrs Sue Ahmed, Deputy Safeguarding Lead sahmed@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Mrs Sally Stevens & Miss Sophie Magee (Acting Deputy DSLs) see above

Ms N Joynson (Quality of Education – Curriculum) njoynson@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Mr P Wraith (Quality of Education – Teaching and Learning) [pwraith@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:pwright@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk)
Miss C Lewis (Pastoral and Inclusion – SEND & The Bramhall Way) clewis@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Mr J Longworth (Quality of Education – Data and reporting) jlongworth@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Miss J Kennedy (Safeguarding, pastoral care and attendance) jkennedy@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Mr S Stonehouse (Transition and marketing) s.stonehouse@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

In addition, adults with key responsibilities will make weekly contact:

Looked After Children Miss Clare Lewis clewis@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Medical Needs Coordinator Mrs Heather Renshaw hrenshaw@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
SEND Mr Chris Masters cmasters@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Young Carers Miss Che Furr cfurr@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Free School Meal Vouchers finance@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Issues with IT itsupport@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Attendance (of those expected in school) attendance@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
For all other enquiries office@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

As ever, thank you for your continued support. The messages of praise and support coming into school really do mean a lot to us and I do pass all these on to staff as it gives us all a lift in these strange times.

Kind regards.



Mr P Williams
Headteacher