



Friday, 16th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to inform you of some changes to our procedures for the return to school on Monday, 2nd November. All of these are to enable smoother, more efficient running of the School within the bounds of the guidance for schools on reducing COVID-19 risk. We are able to make these changes having observed and evaluated our procedures over the last few weeks and are confident they will make a difference.

You will also be aware from the media that from 00:01 on Saturday, 17th October, London, including Bromley, will move to 'Tier 2' (high). As a consequence, our policy on face coverings is being reviewed and we will write to you soon on how this may have to change for when the children return to school.

Start of the school day

Years 7 to 11 will now arrive by 8.35am. They may arrive earlier but must wait in their playground until duty staff allow them to enter the buildings. Entry will be staggered by year group to reduce mixing and maintain social distancing where possible.

Years 12 and 13 will not be required to attend Form Time even if they have a lesson period 1. They will be expected to arrive 5 minutes before their first lesson of the day. In place of this, Tutors will be arranging one-to-one tutorials with the students in their Form Group. These will take place before school by appointment between 8.35 and 9.00am. The tutorials will mostly be for 10 minutes and students will be seen individually twice per half term. Where time and capacity allow, Form Tutors may choose to see some students for longer if required.

This will reduce the numbers of our eldest students arriving together in the morning whilst providing improved individual pastoral and academic support. This arrangement will be reviewed at Christmas and we reserve the right to re-instate Years 12 and 13 Form Time at any point moving forward if we feel it is in the best interests of our students.

Sixth Form students may also use their Study Halls from 8am on any day before going to their first lesson of the day.

End of the school day

Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will finish lesson 5 at 3pm. This means that compared with our current structure, Years 7 and 8 will now have the full 25-hour lesson contact time each week. Staff will stagger the end of their lessons to reduce congestion in the corridors. Years 11, 12 and 13 will finish at 3.10pm. This will allow for some additional subject specific teaching for examination year groups and further reduce congestion.

There are currently no other planned changes to the school day.

Year 11 and Year 13 holiday session arrangements

Information on these has been distributed separately and the deadline to sign up has now past. Those attending will be directed to the relevant classroom on arrival. They must not attend if they have any one of the three main symptoms of COVID-19. Any student attending both the morning and afternoon sessions on the same day will have to vacate the site in between.

Notification of positive COVID-19 over the holiday

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 during the half-term break, please email office@darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk as we may need to determine the likelihood of others in the School having been close contacts with your child and have to ask them to isolate.

Travel to school

Please remind your child to be aware of their responsibility to socially distance during their travel to and from school. They must not block pavements and should walk with consideration for others at all times.

Yours sincerely

Dr M J Airey
Head Teacher