



Achievement & Opportunity
for All

THE BROXBOURNE SCHOOL
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Headteacher
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23rd February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

I am extremely pleased to be writing to confirm that following the recent announcement by the Prime Minister, we are able to plan to have all students back in school from Monday 8th March. Despite being pleased with the way students and staff have adapted to online learning, there is no substitute for face to face learning. The announcement has been accompanied today by further guidance from the Secretary of State for Education stating:

“Home testing is being introduced for secondary age pupils (11+) students. It is important that pupils and students are initially supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they are doing it correctly. This is why testing will initially take place on-site, at an asymptomatic test site (ATS). Secondary schools should offer students 3 tests on-site, 3 to 5 days apart (min 3 days), upon their return. Testing on-site (via an ATS) initially is a condition of being able to transition pupils and students to test at home.

Schools have the flexibility to consider how best to deliver testing on a phased basis from Monday 8th March, depending on circumstances and local arrangements, but should prioritise vulnerable children and children of critical workers and year groups 10 to 13. Pupils should return to face-to-face education following their first negative test result. Pupils not undergoing testing should attend school in line with phased return arrangements. Testing is voluntary; however, we would encourage everyone to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those who may be carrying the virus unknowingly.”

We will design a programme of testing, in line with the guidance, that enables us to test all students before they return to school. We anticipate that it will take up to a day to test each year group using all the resources available to us. We will commence this process as soon as we are allowed with a view to welcome all students to lessons from 8th March, following a negative test. Specific details on how we will achieve this will follow. There will be different arrangements for different year groups.

As a temporary extra safety measure, the Department for Education guidance advises staff and students in secondary schools to wear face coverings in all areas, including classrooms, where social distancing cannot be maintained. This is a change from previous guidance where students were not expected to wear face coverings in classrooms.

In order to keep everyone safe, we will retain the staggered day for year-group ‘bubbles’ (shown below), one-way systems and expectations of regular hand washing and sanitising. There will also be enhanced cleaning of the site.

New school move

We have further good news to share as our new school buildings will be ready for us to move into over Easter which is a term earlier than we expected. After such a difficult year, it feels even more important to be able

to return to school and start the summer term in such a new and fantastic learning environment. Lockdown has meant that we have not been able to involve students in tours of the school, but we will ensure that they are appropriately prepared for moving in – it will take some time for us to all reorientate ourselves!



You may be able to see from the signage that the sports centre is named 'The Margot Shawyer Sports Centre'. Many of you with older children will remember that Margot Shawyer was the previous chair of governors at the school (from 1999 to 2015). She was a great advocate for sport and a driving force behind the need for us to improve the school estate for the future generations of Broxbourne. Margot sadly passed away before the project was realised, but governors have agreed that we should name the sports centre after her to honour her contribution to the school over many years.

We are taking all our furniture and equipment with us. It is likely that the move will take up to three weeks and so in order to achieve the logistical challenges of packing and unpacking the school over the Easter holidays, we will set work for students to complete at home on Wednesday 24th March and Thursday 25th March. End of term celebration assemblies will take place remotely on Friday 26th March. I am sorry for any inconvenience this will cause but hope you agree the scale of the task is huge. We would be very grateful for any parent volunteers who would be willing to help with packing and unpacking over Easter to contact admin@broxbourne.herts.sch.uk with the times when you might be available, Covid restrictions permitting. We are hopeful that the lifting of coronavirus measures will allow us to offer tours for groups of parents later in the summer term.

We are extremely keen to have students back in school as soon as possible. I will write again with the testing arrangements and dates for our phased return as soon as they are confirmed.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paula Humphreys'.

Paula Humphreys
Headteacher

Arrival / Form time		Period 1	Period 2 80 minutes to include break					Period 3	Period 4 90 minutes to include 30 minutes for lunch			Period 5	Departure / Form time	
		8.50 – 9.50	9.50 – 10.10	10.10 – 10.20	10.20 – 10.40	10.40 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.10	11.10 – 12.10	12.10 – 12.40	12.40 – 13.10	13.10 – 13.40	13.40 – 14.40		
7	8.30 20 minutes Form time						Break				Lunch		Depart 14.40 Monday - Thursday 13.10 on Friday	
8	8.40 10 minutes Form time				Break				Lunch				Form time (10 mins)	Depart 14.50
9	8.50 Straight to Pd1		Break							Lunch			Form time	Depart 15.00
10	8.35 15 minutes Form time						Break				Lunch		Depart 14.40	
11	8.50 Straight to Pd1		Break						Lunch				Form time	Depart 15.00
12	8.35 (2 days) 15 minutes Form time						Break				Lunch		Depart 14.40 or last lesson	
13	8.50 or arrive for first lesson		Break						Lunch				Form time (2 days)	Depart 15.00 or last lesson