

20 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are well and staying safe. Firstly, I would like to thank you for your continued and Herculean support of your child's education during this time.

As you may know, the Government has declared that we are set for a phased return to school for years 10. I write today to inform you of what this may mean for your child after half-term, and to seek your input into our proposed way ahead.

From Monday 1 June, Bohunt School Worthing will be open, as it has been since 20 March, for children classed as priority groups: vulnerable or children of key workers. **We have also planned, in line with the Government advice, for the partial return of some students so that we can offer face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 (and year 12) students.**

As Headteacher of this school, my priority is the safety and well-being of our students, and everyone who sets foot on the School premises. I also wholeheartedly believe that schools exist to serve children, and in the child's fundamental right to education. We have, as you know, remained open for children of priority groups since the start of lockdown, including the Easter holidays. At the end of this letter, I have outlined the measures we are taking to safeguard students and teachers as we plan to extend our opening to include Y10 students.

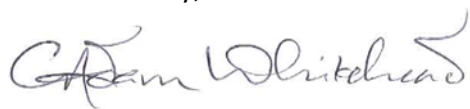
This step does not directly affect students in Y7-9 and we will be maintaining home learning for them after half term. However as members of our community I wanted you to be able to see the plan so that any feedback or comments you have can be emailed to info@bohuntworthing.com and taken into consideration.

I am sure that many of you will have questions or concerns about your child/ren attending school again, whether they relate to transport, anxieties about safety on site or worries about how your child may cope with a return to school in these unusual circumstances. Many may be answered by the Government's Q&A here (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>). You and your children may also find the wellbeing resources we have included in our parent newsletters helpful (<https://www.bohuntworthing.com/parents/latest-letters/>).

In the meantime, the safety of our students, staff, their families, and our wider school community remain our priority. Thank you again for your continued support: it has been my pleasure to lead the School throughout this period thus far. We are a very special community at Bohunt School Worthing. I would reiterate that I do not take any decisions lightly when students' welfare is concerned, and I am certain that we are able, taking the steps described below, to open safely for a partial return of students.

Keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely,



Adam Whitehead
Headteacher

Outline of measures to be taken for Y10 return to school

I would like to give you every assurance that we have worked and continue to work hard to put extensive safety measures in place to overcome any logistical hurdles. We have conducted comprehensive risk assessments and I am supremely confident that we can meet, and indeed exceed, the requirements for the national guidance for safe opening. The details are too exhaustive to list here but will include the following measures, which go beyond the Government advice at the time of writing:

- Your son/daughter will attend for a two-hour teaching session four days a week;
- They will be educated in a single teaching group (bubbles) of 12-15 students for each of the sessions offered (in the event of a confirmed COVID case this bubble will then self-isolate at home for 14 days or until evidence of a negative test has been provided);
- There will be non-contact temperature-taking on arrival;
- Social distancing of 2 metres will be in operation at all times, including in classrooms;
- Students will be encouraged to wear a comfortable face covering; teachers will be offered a visor and mask;
- An intensive cleaning regime will be in operation that includes closing and deep cleaning classrooms after two hours.
- Hand washing and hand sanitising measures will be in place, for example, on entry to the site which, in turn, will be strictly controlled and in keeping with the 2m social distancing requirement.

Below you will find our plan for opening to Year 10. If your child is not in these year groups, nor in a priority category for education (vulnerable and children of keyworkers), please continue to make best use of the online learning that is available to enable them to keep up with their education as much as possible.

Year 10 Education Provision

Our proposed date for opening to Year 10 students is Wednesday 3rd June. The Government has advised that schools should reduce the number of young people in classrooms compared to usual and put protective measures in place to reduce risks. Children will be expected to stay within their new class/group where possible.

To this end, we will be dividing the year group into thirds based on the house they are in. Each house will then be divided in to four classes meaning an absolute maximum of 15 students per class if all students return to school. This class will stay together for all the time they are in school creating a socially distant consistent bubble of students that will not have contact with other classes. The four classes created for each house will attend one two hour block per day Monday to Thursday. Each class will have its own classroom that they and only they will use. Students will also be given their own individual desk which only they will use and all rooms will be deep cleaned daily.

Creation of these class bubbles prioritises minimizing the risk to health for students and staff. This is the right thing to do at this time rather than have students in different groups each day based on their previous subject classes. It means all students will cover the same content differentiated to reflect their capability in the subject.

We will be implementing a rotational timetable for learning as follows:

Monday – English

Tuesday – Geography/History

Wednesday – Maths

Thursday – Science

Friday- Home learning all day as no attendance at school

This list highlights that some subject staff will be unavailable for their on line Y7-9 lessons on certain days but work will still be set e.g. your English teacher might not be available on a Monday.

Timings of the sessions each day – which house is expected in when can be rotated as term progresses.

House 1 - session 1 08:30 - 10:30

House 2 - session 2 11:00 - 13:00

House 3 - session 3 13:30 - 15:30

All Year 10 students will be expected to continue home learning work outside of their time in school. This means they will have weekly tasks to complete from the above subjects at home. These tasks will be shared with them through a new google classroom that we will create for their class bubble. It would be impossible to maintain the class bubbles if we included other option subjects in our face to face delivery. These option subjects will continue to set work on line and their teachers will be available to support in these subjects through the google classroom and by email.

Only 9 students do not study either History or Geography so they would not be expected in on Tuesday. 23 students do both History and Geography. They will study Geography on Tuesday and receive home learning support for History in a way similar to other option subjects not listed.

Students should not move between classes and should arrive/leave site promptly for their session. The above structure allows teachers to be in school for only one day a week, thus further assisting infection control and allowing us to maintain our home learning provision for Years 7-9.

Infection Control and Social Distancing Measures

In line with Government advice, we have implemented a range of protective measures across the School. These include: temperature-taking and handwashing on arrival, 2m at all times social distancing, handwashing facility information, increased cleaning of classrooms and all surfaces, utilising outdoor space if applicable and staff PPE.

Social Time and Catering

To minimise the risk of infection and to maximise learning time, there will be **no social time or catering provision** for students or staff, nor will social gatherings be allowed, to best support adherence of social distancing guidance.

Contact with Pastoral Support

On our first day we will be clear to go through our structures, expectations and support with all students. There will be pastoral support available for students on site every day should there be a need for something more individual.

Transport and Travel Arrangements

Children should not travel to school by public transport. It is recommended that children are either brought to school by car, or walk or cycle to school and we will be carefully controlling pick-up and drop-off as follows: Only drop off can occur at the front of school for each session and students will then queue 2m apart in the front playground to control entry to the building. Students will leave school by the rear exit and can be picked up from sites based on our park and stride guidance.

We also ask that parents and carers do not gather at entrance gates or on site at this time. They should not enter the school for any reason. If you need to speak to a member of staff, please contact the office by phone or email and we will make sure somebody gets back to you.

Behaviour

Our high expectations of behaviour and attendance remain. We look forward to welcoming students who are willing and motivated to learn, and we expect our young people, as always, to behave safely and sensibly despite aspects of our normal disciplinary policy not being applicable during this time, e.g. detentions we will be sharing with students, parents and staff some additional rules that will be in place for these special circumstances. Our behaviour policy can be found at: <https://www.bohuntworthington.com/about/statutory-information/>

Uniform

Students are not required to wear uniform during this phase and the staff dress code has also been relaxed. The Government has advised that there is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in school.

We would also ask that you continue to play your part in the return to school. For instance:

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- No one should come to school if they are displaying symptoms of coronavirus.
- If your child is brought to, and collected from, school, only one parent/carer should do this.