



# Bury Church of England High School

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HEADTEACHER: Mr S Braithwaite BA (Hons) NPQH

DEPUTY HEADTEACHERS: Mrs T Astley BEd (Hons) NPQSL, Mrs M Brothers BA (Hons)

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHERS: Mrs L Foster BA (Hons), Director of Mathematics, Mrs L Brannon-Barnett BA (Hons), Director of English, Mrs H Martin BA (Hons), Director of EBacc

26 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are likely aware, the Government has announced that schools will reopen to all students from **8 March 2021**. We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all of our students to face-to-face education.

We welcome this milestone in the road back to a normal routine and opportunity for our students to see friends and connect face to face with teachers. I am hugely proud of all the efforts made by parents, students, teachers and support staff since January. The commitment to learning has remained exceptional and the curriculum diet has been adapted but maintained. We hear a great deal about catch up and lost learning, this is not our mantra. Ours is about accelerating progress from this point and making sure all of our students continue to be successful. I have had the opportunity, along with other senior colleagues, to drop in to lessons remotely and have seen firsthand, the quality on offer and know that our students are ready to make even greater strides on their return to school.

## School attendance

From the week starting 8 March 2021, attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

As a reminder, students should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- have Coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive.
- live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive.
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive.

In line with the latest government guidance, students who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice. Please provide school with a copy of the shielding letter for your child.

For students who are self-isolating or shielding, we will:

- provide live lessons as before during the period of isolation as we did between September and December.

## Coronavirus testing

To facilitate the swift return to school we will need to begin our mass testing programme on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021:

- Students will be asked to take 3 coronavirus tests at school, with 3 to 5 days between each test. Test results will take about 30 minutes to process.
- On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March, students will arrive in school for their appointment time and leave immediately afterwards. Appointment times will be sent out by email on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March.
- It is important that students come to the rear Sports Hall doors, take the test and leave site immediately. This is essential as the Government announced that testing can begin before the scheduled return to school but must not allow students to be on site for longer than they need to be.
- Students can return to school after their **first negative result**. If at any point during the testing, both in school and home testing, a student tests positive they will need to self-isolate in line with Government guidance, which is for a period of 10 days.
- By the school doing the first testing from Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>, it means all students can return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and testing will be completed by Friday 12<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, our normal timetable will proceed from March 15<sup>th</sup>.



Testing is voluntary, and you and/or your child will need to give consent for it to be carried out. The vast majority of you have already done so. However, we strongly encourage your child to take part so we can help prevent the spread of Coronavirus. If you have not already completed the permission form, please consider doing so.

If your child is not participating in testing, they should attend school as usual from the **8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**.

Pupils who have had a positive Coronavirus test in the last 90 days will not be tested. If you receive an appointment and are unable to attend for this reason please contact the school office with a date of the positive test.

**Live lessons will be suspended on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March to allow mass testing to begin. Further details will be provided next week on work expectations for these two days.**

After the three initial tests at school, students will be offered Coronavirus tests that they should take twice a week at home. A leaflet will be included in the testing kit which explains how to test at home. It is essential that results are shared with school through the Microsoft form that will be sent out as a link to aid our Track and Tracing. Equally if a positive test is recorded at home then a period of 10 days isolation must be followed as before.

### **Our safety measures**

Rest assured that we are doing everything we can to make sure our students can return to school safely. From 8<sup>th</sup> March, we will be taking the following protective measures:

- We will ask that all students wear a face covering in communal areas and corridors as we did between September and December.
- We will make a further request that all students, unless exempt, wear a mask in classrooms. This is in line with the latest Government guidance for schools. The Government strongly recommend this action up until the Easter break.
- Students in all years will follow their timetable as before. In KS3, they will remain in their class bubbles and at KS4, in their zones.
- Our risk assessment measures prior to the latest National Lockdown were successful in reducing the transmission and the only adjustment we are making is the wearing of masks in classrooms.
- It is our intention to also offer an outside breaktime once per week per year group. We will continue to slowly allow more social time as we move out of the National restrictions.

### **Additional support**

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we would like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. If you or your child have any concerns about returning to school, or if you think your child might need extra support when they return, please get in touch with school using the school email [offman@burychurch.bury.sch.uk](mailto:offman@burychurch.bury.sch.uk) or via Department for Pupil Support.

I would like to thank you for all your support in helping your child learn from home. We will continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new Government guidance.

Warm regards,



Simon Braithwaite BA (Hons), NPQH  
Headteacher

