

**Head Teacher: Miss K. Walton**

[kw Walton@thebeaconcentre.net](mailto:kw Walton@thebeaconcentre.net)

Chair of Governor: K. Stephenson

The Beacon Centre (Secondary), Temple Park Road, South Shields. NE34 0QA

Tel: 0191 4546254

The Beacon Centre (Primary), Hatfield Square, South Shields. NE33 2RD

Website: [thebeaconcentre.net](http://thebeaconcentre.net)

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

### **Re: School Reopening – 8<sup>th</sup> March**

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you will be aware, the government has announced that schools will reopen to all students from the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. In terms of the Beacon Centre, we have been open throughout and we are looking forward to welcoming back our few remaining students. Unless we have spoken to you specifically, school times are 9:00am to 2:45pm (2pm Friday). Breakfast club is still available from 8:45am for those students wishing to take up this offer. The voucher scheme for Free School Meals has now come to end, however, we will continue to offer meals in school or packed lunch (students self-isolating) to those students who are eligible. If your circumstances have changed and you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals, please get in touch so we can support you.

School attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply. Our high expectations of students' behaviour will continue after their return to school. We would expect all pupils to follow the measures in place to keep themselves and others safe. Pupils will be expected to wear their school uniform as normal.

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

To help us keep everyone safe, we will continue to offer rapid Coronavirus testing to all our students as they return from the 8<sup>th</sup> March. Testing is voluntary, however we strongly encourage your child to take part so we can help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, and avoid potential school closures. I am pleased to inform you that, to date, all students and staff have been tested regularly since January and continue to do so on a weekly basis. In addition to this, we will be taking the follow protective measures:

- ✓ Students and staff to operate in "micro bubbles"
- ✓ On arrival to school, students will be asked to sanitise their hands
- ✓ Classrooms will be cleaned between each lesson and communal areas regularly throughout the school day
- ✓ Where possible, windows and doors will be kept open to maintain good ventilation
- ✓ We will ask that secondary age students wear a face covering in communal areas. Due to the size of our classrooms and small class sizes, we may require students to wear face coverings within the classroom where social distancing cannot be adhered to. This is in line with the latest government guidance for schools
- ✓ Large gatherings to be avoided e.g. assemblies
- ✓ The NHS 'Test and Trace' system will be actively used and followed
- ✓ Where possible, limitations will be placed on the number of staff and pupils encounter during the school day
- ✓ Risk assessments updated regularly and shared as guidance changes



The Beacon Centre  
Leading The Way To A Brighter Future

**Head Teacher: Miss K. Walton**

[kw Walton@thebeaconcentre.net](mailto:kw Walton@thebeaconcentre.net)

Chair of Governor: K. Stephenson

The Beacon Centre (Secondary), Temple Park Road, South Shields. NE34 0QA

Tel: 0191 4546254

The Beacon Centre (Primary), Hatfield Square, South Shields. NE33 2RD

Website: thebeaconcentre.net

We do understand that some students will still be feeling a little anxious about returning to school. If your child is feeling worried at all, please get in touch with us: we can arrange a call, or meeting with their tutor, to discuss what they might need to make them feel at ease. We are also here to support parents and carers so please reach out if you would like to talk about any concerns you may have.

As next week is the final week of remote learning (unless any students needs to isolate), I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all staff who have worked so hard to make sure that learning has continued, even in such challenging circumstances. We would also like to thank you for persevering and supporting school and your child by encouraging them to engage with their online lessons or by coming into school regularly. Due to the positive feedback we have had from students, parents / carers and staff, we will be continuing to offer educational content through Google Classroom, Ed Lounge and via our YouTube channel. Moving forward, this will be useful for any students who wish to catch up on any missed work. We hope you will continue to encourage your child to take advantage of this online content.

We will continue to keep in touch as we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new government guidance. If you require any further information, please contact me on 0191 454 6254.

Please continue to stay safe and well.

Kind regards,

Dominick Gray  
Deputy Head Teacher

