

Dear Parents and Carers,



Re: Full Opening for Autumn Term

It is quite unbelievable to realise that we have reached the end of the academic year for 2020/21 without having the opportunity to welcome back all students. We would never have expected this when the announcement was made that schools would close from 20th March. Students, staff and parents have all had to adapt so quickly to working remotely without any time to plan or prepare as we would have wished for. I'd like to thank you all for your support, patience and sense of community that you have all shown throughout the last 13 weeks of school.

Last Thursday, the government announced their guidance for schools returning fully in autumn. We have been making plans for a safe return to school for all. It is our plan that all students, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from September.

Previously, Bosworth Academy was open to only a small number of children, this was done with the aim of reducing transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), to protect the NHS and save lives. As the situation improved, Year 10 and 12 returned in small groups, with public health risk reduction measures in place, as well as other students who were vulnerable or finding home learning a real challenge.

Now, the circumstances have changed. The prevalence of coronavirus is decreasing (including in the restricted Leicester zone) and the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running, and the government guidance is clear about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments within schools.

Given the improved position, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus. Our new Risk Mitigation Plan (currently being formed) will include steps we will take as a school to reduce risks still further. As a result, we are now planning for all children to return to school as an important move back towards normal life for many children and families.

From the start of the Autumn term, the focus is now on delivering a broad and balanced curriculum to reverse the enormous costs of missed education, providing a high quality learning experience that enables our students to thrive and make progress. We will have measures in place to minimise the number of contacts that a student has during the school day as part of implementing the system of controls outlined by the government to reduce the risk of transmission.

We are aiming to welcome students back in the Autumn term over a series of days in August. During the teacher training days that week we will have trained all staff on how to work safely and how to ensure all



students follow our new safety procedures. The gradual introduction of students is vital so that we can be sure that all of our safeguarding measures introduced are sufficient for when all students return to school on Tuesday 1st September 2020.

New year 7 students will begin school on Wednesday 26th August, starting with a full essential induction day which they missed due to 'lockdown' during the summer term. Years 11 and 13 will begin school on Thursday 27th August as many were unable to attend face to face provision due to the Leicester/Leicestershire restrictions and are still expected to sit formal GCSE/A level examinations at the end of that academic year.

The dates below show when each year group starts term:

Mon 24 Aug: Teacher Training Day
Tue 25 Aug: Teacher Training Day
Wed 26 Aug: Year 7 only - Induction Day
Thu 27 Aug: Year 7, 11, 13
Fri 28 Aug: Year 7, 11, 13
Mon 31 Aug: Bank Holiday
Tue 1 Sept: Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13
Wed 2 Sept: Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, Year 12 Induction (PM)
Thu 3 Sept: All Years

School will start at 8.45am with all key stage 3 and 4 students (Year 7-11) expected in full uniform and Sixth Form students meeting their dress code requirements. A transport letter will follow this letter very soon from Mr. White.

School will still be very different when all students return for the Autumn term. Minimising contacts and mixing between people reduces transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). Our planning aims to minimise contacts and mixing of year groups of students in school while delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

We will implement an adapted form of the system of protective measures that we are familiar with from Bosworth Academy remaining open to students since 20th March and then to Year 10 and 12 students from 15th June during face-to-face sessions.

Essential measures include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home (students and staff)
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements, before, after and during the school day
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace, as well as our own in-school version
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks, with class sizes returning to normal
- staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible
- adapting our behaviour policy to include consequences for students not adhering to the new hygiene and safety procedures
- consideration of the structure of our day; breaks, lunch, transport, movement around school and groupings, to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible whilst ensuring a quality teaching programme is in place.

With the quickly changing national picture around coronavirus and a further government announcement planned in August we will be refining our full plan for mitigating risk and sharing with parents on 21st August 2020. This will provide detail about bus transport, drop-off and pick-up, hygiene protocols and behaviour expectations.

We have missed having all of our students in school, and we are planning carefully to welcome them all back for an exciting, engaging learning experience. I wish you all a lovely summer break and hope that the restrictions in place for many of you are removed soon when it is deemed safe to do so.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Brown', followed by a small horizontal line.

Mr. Brown
Head of School