



Brighouse High School

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Headteacher: Mr R Horsfield LLB BA (Hons)



31st August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your family have continued to keep safe and well and have been able to enjoy a decent break of some sort this summer.

As promised at the end of term, I would like to update you on procedures for the full re-opening of Brighouse High School to all pupils next week. We are delighted that we are able to continue full time education under more normal circumstances in school for all students and we are hopeful that all will progress smoothly throughout this first term of the year.

Apologies for the long letter, but hopefully you will find it useful to summarise all of the important return to school information.

Full re-opening of BHS in September 2021

The Department for Education updated the operational guidance for schools on August 17th and you can find the details [here](#). We are pleased to see that many of the previous restrictions on how we operated have been lifted, as they have in society in general, and we are planning much more for 'business as usual'.

Face coverings

One of the main questions I have been asked in recent weeks is regarding the wearing of face coverings in school; as you can see from the guidance, it is no longer advised that staff and students wear face coverings in school in classrooms or communal areas. I am pleased from an educational perspective that face coverings are no longer mandatory, but I expect that some colleagues and some students will wish to continue to wear face coverings in school and this is absolutely acceptable. **Please ensure your child is aware that they are free to wear face coverings if they so choose.**

Zoning

It is now considered unnecessary to put in place 'bubbles' or staggered starts and ends to the day and will continue to move forward on that basis. This means that the previous zoning of year groups in certain areas of the school is no longer necessary which means that the experience of secondary school will be much richer for our students, and particularly our younger students who are yet to see our school run under normal circumstances.

Ventilation and cleaning routines

We will continue to have enhanced hygiene and ventilation routines in September and will still have hand sanitiser available and signage regarding hand washing around school. We will continue to commit to additional cleaning of contact points and facilities throughout the day until we believe it is safe to reduce doing so.

Social times

As I said previously, much has worked with our changes over the last two years and we intend to keep the split breaks and lunch although we will reduce the splits to only two of each. We will have set areas for year groups during break and lunch and this should help students in the food queues significantly and ensure a calm and orderly environment.

Important allergy information

We do always have students in school with allergies and from September we have more concerns regarding nut allergies in school; the canteen menu will be amended to ensure the safety of all students **but please be mindful of food that your child brings into school and particularly those foods containing nuts, as even airborne particles can cause significant difficulties for some students.**

Entrances and school day

We are trialling the retention of separate entrances for different year groups, as this has really helped our pastoral staff support their year group and identify problems and support students quickly, and tutor time will be extended on a Wednesday morning to enhance our pastoral curriculum and allow us to move further forward with our work on personal, social, health and citizenship education.

The day will start at 8:45am in Tutor Time for all students and finish at 3:00pm for all students.

Start of term

Please also remember that we are having a staggered start to term once again this year, particularly due to the fact that the new cohort of Year 7 pupils starting with us in September has not been able to attend Transition Day as usual and the expectation that we will offer on-site testing on return for all students.

The year groups will start the term on the following days:

Year 7 - Tuesday 7th September

Year 11 - Wednesday 8th September

Years 8,9 and 10 – Thursday 9th September

Y13 – Tuesday 7th September

Y12 – Thursday 9th September

On site testing

On their first day back in school, those students who have consented will take a lateral flow test and then be expected to follow up 3-5 days later with a second test at home and then test regularly throughout September. We will issue a further supply of home testing kits during the first week school.

We may offer a second on-site test depending on the outcomes of the first round of testing. If you have given consent for testing previously you do not have to do so again, but if you are new to our school then please ensure that you have responded to the consent form link which was sent out last week.

Positive Behaviour, systems and routines:

We will be going back to the majority of our routines pre-COVID in terms of our Positive Behaviour and its systems which support this. The Positive Behaviour Policy will no longer have an addendum for COVID and is on the website.

Students will be reminded/informed of the details in their first week back. Below is a summary of the main things which parents and carers need to know:

The Planner

- Students must bring their planner daily; it is a vital part of their equipment.
- They will be given a new planner on their first day in September (no need to bring your old one).
- Staff will be writing in student planners, tutors will sign the planner weekly and we will expect parents to sign this weekly also. This is part of the home/school agreement you enter upon accepting your child's place with us. Tutors or teachers may record notes to parents to view in this and it also how you can contact the tutor.

Rewards

- Our positive behaviour system means that your child earns reward points every day, so you can see if your child is going above and beyond in the parent app.
- It is hoped that we will be able to resume the external trips and celebrations for those students with high rewards scores.

Behaviour and Detentions

- We will resume the usual class and corridor expectations; these basic rules support our high expectations and ensure a safe, orderly environment for all.
- Consequences for poor behaviour, no homework, no equipment, incorrect uniform etc. all contribute to further sanctions.
- Students are issued with detentions as per our policy for such negative incidents, a one off incident of poor or unacceptable behaviour or for being removed from a classroom.
- After school detentions will be communicated to parents as per the old system. We always give 24 hours' notice.
- After school detentions are part of school policy and we expect that your child attends these if they are issued, these are non-negotiable.

Attendance

- We expect all students to return and attend 100% from Monday 6th September.
- Please notify us immediately if there is a reason your child cannot attend.
- The school will set attendance targets for all students at 96% and our usual tracking and procedures apply; the policy is on the website.
- School will notify parents when attendance falls below 96% and again when it falls to 90%.
- 90% attendance or below is a major cause for concern in terms of attainment, safeguarding and wellbeing. The DfE class a student as a 'persistent absentee' at 90% or below.
- At 95% attendance, a student has 80% chance of achieving 5 GCSEs grade 5-9, At 90% attendance, a student has 60% chance of achieving 5 GCSEs, At 85% attendance, a student has 42% chance of achieving 5 GCSEs.
- It is vital that absences are reported; unreported absences are classified as unauthorised and will affect overall attendance targets and may trigger a home visit.

Punctuality

- All students should arrive at school for 8.40am and enter through their designated entrance. If students are arriving earlier than this time then it should only be to access breakfast in the dining hall.
- If students arrive after this time, and are not in registration on time, they are late. They will be issued a late mark.
- Students can also be marked late to lessons during the school day.
- If a student is late twice in one week then they will be issued with an after school detention.

Phones

- A reminder that we will be continuing to follow our mobile phone policy; this means that students must not have their phones on display and not use them at all on site for the duration of the day. Good advice is that they should be switched off at the gates before entering the site. Students who break this policy will have their phones confiscated until the end of the day. **If this happens more than once then an adult will need to collect the phone from the school office.**

Equipment

Please ensure that students bring:

- A fully stocked pencil case with:
 - blue or black writing pens, pencils, rubber, pencil sharpener, ruler, calculator, compass, glue stick and protractor as a minimum. You may want to add in highlighters and/or colouring pencils..
- You may want to send your child with pocket hand sanitiser and tissues.

- Your child will need to bring their planner every day and the correct books for that day including PE Kit or other items specific for the lesson. The timetable will be in their planners.

Uniform

- We expect all students to be in full uniform on their first day back with us on September 7th.
- In my July letter, I explained our expectations around this and that there will be uniform inspections on the first day and subsequent days.
- For all students: school logo jumper, blue cotton shirt with a top button (not polo shirts), the school tie.
- Boys need dark grey formal, tailored full length trousers, not jeans, or jogging pants, they can wear plain dark socks. Plain black flat shoes must be worn, No pumps or trainers.
- Girls need a navy, narrow pleated skirt with quarter stitch of a length to the top of the knee or plain navy trousers; not denim, leggings or jogging pants. They must be tailored and not an extreme skinny fit. They must be full length and not $\frac{3}{4}$ length. Plain black belts are permitted.
- Girls who choose to wear a skirt can wear black or navy tights or plain dark socks. Plain black flat shoes must be worn. No trainers, pumps, sandals or boots.
- Minimal jewellery should be worn with only one plain stud allowed in the lower lobe for earrings. For health and safety we do not allow multiple earrings, facial or body piercings.
- Hair must be a natural colour and no extreme hairstyles are allowed such as extreme skin fades or tramlines.

Pastoral Care

- Students will see their tutor first each day in a 20 minute registrations and tutor time. Tutors will provide front line pastoral care and support for your child and should be your first point of contact.
- Each year group as a Head of Year and a Pastoral Admin support worker who will provide additional support for behaviour, attendance or general welfare issues. Please contact tutors or the Pastoral Office with any concerns.

Safeguarding and Mental Health

- We have a large Safeguarding team and staff who are mental health first aid trained.
- We will continue to support our vulnerable students with our universal offer for safeguarding and mental health including our PSHCE programme. Please do contact the Pastoral Office if you have concerns or need advice.
- Please can we remind you that if your child has a phone or regularly accesses the internet and social media that you do monitor their usage and know their passwords. Many safeguarding issues that school has had to deal with arise from unsafe online behaviour.

My Child at School App (MCAS)

Our Parent App is the best way for you to keep track of how your child is doing from September and will soon be the only way in which we will communicate information to parents as we will cease to use a texting system.

Please see a guide to using the app [here](#).

As always, the success of our school is built on the co-operation and partnerships between home and school and I am confident that, working together, we can ensure the smooth and successful return to school for all in September.

Yours faithfully



Richard Horsfield
Headteacher