



# BEESTON HALL SCHOOL

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents,

I love this school! I have just witnessed Mr LP and Mr H arguing over who is going to film Mr W showing Juan G (our single quarantined pupil from Spain) how to use a metal detector! Commitment, huge smiles and imagination, in equal measure! I hope you are enjoying these remaining sunlit days of the summer holiday, too. This second round of emailed communication comes with a number of attachments, bearing in mind the continued changing face of UK guidance, data and opinion. There is, broadly, a 'normal service is resumed' tone to what follows, with the caveats you will all expect regarding bubbles, pods, visitors to the site, social-distancing and the potential use of masks by staff and pupils in Year 7 and 8 (***please ensure they at least bring one to school***) – all of which was covered in Mr Hammond's excellent document.

We can properly celebrate the repainted Sports Hall (ancient history!) by putting it to regular use once again, and also delight in the electric blue of the resurfaced Dean Courts! With our site festooned in hand sanitisers, a fogging machine to draw upon, handheld electronic (infrared) thermometers, we are very well-prepared, even if we do not invoke these items forthwith, but must begin as we started with role-modelling of robust hygiene and the strict following of Covid-19 protocols.

We have here further outlines of the main aspects of school life as it restarts, which will be followed next week, by letters from your children's mentors and the list of available activities.

## **Pastoral**

'Mental health and wellbeing' is a phrase used with frenzied regularity in the media. Irrespective of this we continue to hold pastoral care at the centre of everything we do at Beeston, never more so than this term where we will, inevitably, face greater-than-usual anxieties about re-starting school. Mr Hammond's letter regarding **registration groups**, tutors and mentors – aimed at further improvements in pastoral care and support, is there first in my list of priorities.

## **The self-declaration form, which we must have back prior to your child/ren returning.**

Whilst the death rate in Norfolk is negligible, in national or international terms, especially amongst the age profile of almost all of those immediately associated with Beeston, a policy of minimising risk, without stopping life in its tracks, remains uppermost. **PLEASE DO ENSURE THIS COMES BACK BY MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER.**

## Calendar

**The school calendar:** this is very much a working document and will continue in pdf and electronic form (downloadable from the website through iCal) with the proviso that, in a month, we review the events after half term – in particular locations and fixtures. It will be available on the parent portal from Monday morning.

**Meet the Mentors:** these events will take place on Zoom or pre-recorded Loom sessions for families' convenience, in place of the usual presentations followed by drinks and canapes, in order to introduce staff and give an outline of the curriculum areas of specialist staff.

## Games and PE

Pre-season will take place in the normal way with children operating within their year group bubbles, following the National Governing Bodies' (NGB) guidelines of each sport. There will be a separate letter on Monday, regarding protocols and staggered timings but, in brief:

- The girls' sports programme will be 'business as usual': playing hockey with next term's sport (netball) once a week
- The boys' will also have 'business as usual': playing a non-contact form of rugby (please see Ready4Rugby), with next term's sport (hockey) once a week.

Both boys and girls will benefit from an added session of cricket\* and/or swimming on one of the two fixtures days. They will also be introduced to a form of strength and condition exercise to develop awareness and importance of physical health and wellbeing. (\*cricket whites not necessary). Swimming will dominate PE until half term.

## Music and Church

Sadly, the church remains closed so we will have shorter, year group Services of Reflection and Worship on Saturday mornings, however the Chapel Choir will continue to practise. Room usage in the Music School has been amended so children can continue to practise and one-to-one socially distanced lessons take place. Singing in large groups remains impossible but smaller groups' singing will take place, with much music undertaken in the marquees. Children can store their instruments safely in the areas below. The performance space has been reassigned for teaching. There are seven separate year group informal concerts - please do sign up in advance, as audience as well performers!

Instrument store location	Year group
Original Instrument storeroom	Year 8
Choir robes room	Year 7
Music tech room	Year 6
Designated areas on the stage in main music room	Years 3,4,5
Pre-prep classrooms	Reception, Year 1 and 2

## Uniform and kit

Usual winter uniform (and policy) is in operation with the heavy encouragement of plenty of underclothes/skins (providing they are invisible) as the temperature drops, what windows remaining open (essential) and/or marquees being used. Mittens and gloves to be encouraged. The Beeston fleece is most definitely advised this term. While we will regularly wash kit belonging to boarders (including water bottles), we must insist day children take kit home regularly for washing. The requirement for daily changes has been withdrawn.

Small rucksacks are ideal to keep children's personal kit together, stored in their classroom lockers. The key is that they are a) kept together and b) not stored in changing rooms, with glue sticks, scissors, rulers, colours, pencils, pens and cartridges and such like, all contained, so there is **no need for sharing**.

On the first day of term Reception and Year 1 children should arrive with kit at the Pre-Prep entrance gate. Children in Years 2 to 4 **will be able to draw on staff help** as they carry their equipment into their classrooms. Children in Year 5 upwards will bring their kit into school, if it has not arrived already for pre-season training.

Without the usual rhythms of BUStop over the last 6 months Mrs Cole is doing an incredible job bringing us all up to speed with fitting out the many new children and re-equipping existing Beestonians. Please bear with her and her extremely heavy appointment book!

The changing rooms will now be in use, but with much more limited use of the spaces and no use of showers for the bulk of the children in school.

Outdoor taps now in place for regular refilling of water bottles and outdoor lockers assigned to year group bubbles to mitigate the use of indoor spaces.

## Policies and information

The new website gives access to all required school policies and the parent portal contains documentation, to date, regarding Covid-19 correspondence – bar the latest communication last week still undergoing minor amendments. I trust you will appreciate the dynamic nature of this very full advice and we will update once again, next week. for the moment, the attached 'Quick Reference' guides (Sheets 1, 2, 3 and 4) you may find helpful.

With that and in the interests of brevity may I simply say, very best wishes and look forward to seeing you on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning, albeit through car windows and face coverings!



Fred de Falbe  
Headmaster