



# BEESTON HALL SCHOOL

25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents,

As hotly anticipated, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March is zero-hour for full reopening of school on site – we all look forward, very much indeed, to welcoming back all the children!

For children in Year 6 and below the day will begin as normal but, for Year 7 and Year 8 children, we will need to have a staggered start to the morning as we institute the first of three Lateral Flow testing sessions for these pupils and staff\*. Mr Hammond will be in touch over the next few days with the precise details and timings of this, for parents to ‘drop and go’. The journey home may, possibly, be stopped by a call from school and the requirement to return to collect your child, in the event of a positive test, but this will be no more than about 30 minutes after the test and we fervently hope this will not be the case. Assuming there is a negative test, each child will be able to join.

Once in the school Year 7 and Year 8 children will be required to wear masks throughout the school day, including in lessons wherever two-metre social distancing cannot be achieved. In PE, games and activities outside this will not be necessary. Masks or no masks, it is especially important that children are back in school in full school (winter) uniform – warm against the ‘open doors and windows’ regime, with hair brushed (and/or tied back), shirts tucked in, shoes polished and ties tied up!

Please do be aware, though, the lockdown confining us all to home, barring essential travel, does continue and we must continue in our duty to uphold this, not least for the sake of staff to whom covid transmission presents a greater risk than children, particularly since – as you will know – the majority of them are as yet unvaccinated. Therefore, if there is any doubt regarding previous movements and contact regarding your children, please ensure they are in the home bubble between now and March 8<sup>th</sup> in order that they can come back to school on that date, rather than have to continue remote learning in order to keep the remainder of the community safe.

Boarders should bring three reusable masks with them, marked, to ensure regular washing and cleanliness but also bring a minimum of equipment back with them, to simplify and minimise transmission possibility because - not least - of potential variants – a consideration which has been a necessary part of all updated risk assessments. On the same basis, we propose to do without the single exeat and have a full-boarding situation for senior

boarding pupils between their arrival and the end of term Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March. We sincerely hope all boarding pupils will want to stay – and are most welcome – but have to balance the wellbeing and mental health of children as they begin to emerge from this extraordinary time. (Please let Mr Lloyd Peck know of your intentions.)

Our usual school timetable will resume, including activities, which are somewhat amended in scope to ensure that the appropriate minimisation of risk (of transmission) is achieved. Please do ensure that, should your child want to participate in an activity, the online form is completed by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

The operation of bubbles will continue as they did last term, as will the (now usual) protocols regarding hygiene, hand-sanitisation and circulation around the school. Sadly, church services remain off-limits, and there will be no sports fixtures or educational visits, but boarding and Saturday school return, along with prep for Year 6 upwards.

Like you, I am so pleased that the light is shining brightly at the end of the tunnel and, though this is ostensibly an 'arrangements' letter, cannot refrain from taking this opportunity to congratulate and praise, not only the children who have dealt with everything thrown at them so incredibly well, but also the staff – all of them! – who have continued through what has been, I think we can agree, a tough patch. Finally, my thanks to you all for your warm and supportive comments that have continued to arrive over the course of the term. Spring is around the corner!

Best wishes,



Fred de Falbe

\*Please bear in mind these tests are voluntary, but I would encourage everyone in school to take them and most have already completed the electronic consent form. We are required initially to test children three times: once before the return to school, and then a further two tests three to five days apart. Once these routines have been established, home-testing will be required – there will be more to follow on this.

As I said in January, the testing team is led by Nurse Alison, with trained Beeston staff and ably supported by our medical and safeguarding governor Dr Pam Ripley, who will carry out and process lateral flow testing on staff and children. The C19 online Consent Form for Year 7 and 8 children is attached, alongside the Privacy Notice for NHS for COVID-19 Mass testing. Further information and plan for testing for Year 7 and 8 will follow.