



31st December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are aware an announcement by the Government on 30th December postponed the return to secondary schools for most pupils in order for schools to have time to set up the mass testing of staff and pupils.

I am writing to inform you of how this will impact on your child.

From **Tuesday 5th January any key worker or vulnerable pupil will receive face to face education**, in school. On this day these pupils and the staff teaching them will be tested. Parents must have informed their school that they wish to access this provision and have returned the consent forms. All other pupils will remain at home.

From **Wednesday 6th January all other pupils will commence their learning online**. Please remember to contact IT services if you have any technical issues or hardware requirements. studentitsupport@bmatrust.org.uk

On **Thursday 7th January and Monday 11th January all Year 11/13 and Year 10** (only if sitting GCSE's) will be called into school for testing. On Monday 11th January they will remain in school once they have been tested if they are sitting GCSE'S in subjects this year. Schools will be in touch next week about the time your child needs to be in school to receive the test. Once again consent forms must be returned so that a pupil can be tested.

From **Monday 11th January Year 11/13 and Year 10 for BMA/FHS will be commence face to face lessons** in school in the subjects that they have exams in during the summer.

All other pupils will be tested on Thursday 14th January and Monday 18th January. From Monday 18th they will commence face to face lessons in school. Once again consent forms must be returned so that a pupil can be tested. Schools will be in touch to confirm the day and time for testing.

I know that some pupils will be very anxious about the test and we will be recruiting staff both internally and externally who have the skills required to supervise and carry out the testing. As you can imagine this is an enormous operational task and we are working very hard to ensure we can adhere to these deadlines. We believe that testing kits will be delivered by Monday so that pupils of key workers and vulnerable pupils can be tested straight away on Tuesday and are able to stay in school.

If any child tests positive they will not be able to stay in school and they will remain in isolation until they are able to be collected or sent home. They must then be taken for an additional test at one of the NHS testing centres.

Pupils who are not in school and are entitled to a free school meal will still be able to access this and a collection point will be available.

I know that this is a very difficult time for our young people and I know they are desperate to return to school but we must follow guidance and must ensure that we create a safe learning environment for our pupils and a safe place to work for our staff.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any issues and of course if government guidance changes then I will write to update you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helene Mills'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Ms H Mills CBE - Chief Executive Officer