



# Bishop David Brown School

## Vision Statement

"To be an outstanding school, providing a stimulating educational environment enabling students to achieve their full potential."

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This year has been exceptionally challenging for all of us. As you will no doubt be aware the government have issued guidance relating to a staggered return to school in January and the COVID-19 National Testing Programme.

Whilst we finish the Autumn term today please can I ask that if your child presents symptoms and tests positive for COVID-19 between now and 23<sup>rd</sup> December you contact Sara Ripley, our Attendance and Welfare Manager ([sripley@bdb.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:sripley@bdb.surrey.sch.uk) /01932 359 132). This will enable us to identify and contact any students or staff who may be at risk. On the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 students in Year 11, vulnerable students and students whose parents are key workers will return. It is anticipated that all other students will return to school on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and for the first week of term they will be educated remotely and work will be provided in the following ways:

- Live-lessons delivered via Microsoft Teams (where appropriate)
- Independent learning resources assigned either via the VLE or Microsoft Teams

For any students who do not have access to online resources, paper packs will be provided. Students should aim to follow their usual school timetable, completing their work in one-hour chunks.

As with any school closure or isolation period it is essential that students complete the work assigned to them; it is of the upmost importance that their education continues and this period of time is not seen as an extension to the Christmas holidays. We ask for as much parental support as possible in ensuring students access and engage with the work provided. As always teachers are contactable by email (addresses are available on the school website) or via Microsoft Teams, we encourage students to get in touch with any questions or concerns they have. They are also able to submit completed work in this way for feedback.

For more information on accessing remote learning please visit the school website:  
<http://www.bdb.surrey.sch.uk/remote-learning/>

If you meet the criteria for key worker status please contact Sara Ripley to let her know you wish your child to attend school from the 4<sup>th</sup> January. In order for us to plan effectively this information must be provided by no later than 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

For Year 11, vulnerable students and students whose parents are key workers that travel to and from school in transport arranged by Surrey County Council, this will operate as usual.



Unity Schools Trust

*'Excellence through collaboration'*

Bishop David Brown School is operated by the Unity Schools Trust which is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07692130. The Registered Office is at Thorpe Road Staines-upon-Thames TW18 3HJ.

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Year 11 Students will be taking part in the National Testing Programme this is in place to safeguard the health of the students and school staff and keep as many staff and students in school as possible, rapid-result coronavirus (COVID-19) tests will be made available to schools in the New Year.

This will help identify asymptomatic cases (which make up a third of all cases) limiting the spread of the virus. This will give you and us some significant reassurance that we are staying as safe as possible. Alongside this we will continue operating the high levels of social distancing and sanitisation which have proved hugely successful with only six cases across the school since March 2020.

The National Testing programme requires significant input to ensure we can test as many students and staff as possible. I am therefore asking that if any parents or carers who have a medical background would be willing to act as volunteers to support the school in the administration of the test can you please email me directly [jrodgers@bdb.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:jrodgers@bdb.surrey.sch.uk).

Students in Year 11 will arrive at school Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January as normal and they will follow a normal school day. Vulnerable and key worker students will need to report to the study centre at 8.40am.

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals we have extended the voucher scheme we issued over the Christmas period into the first week back in January. The free school meal entitlement will operate through the Wonde vouchers. If you feel you are entitled to this please contact school.

I have no doubt that the landscape will change throughout the holidays and I will keep you updated as we are provided with further guidance. Please keep an eye on the website and social media for updates from myself and the team.

Thank you once again for your continued support and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and a significantly better new year.

Yours sincerely

James Rodgers  
Head of School

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