

**Beacon High**  
**Hilldrop Road**  
**London, N7 OJG**  
**Telephone: 020 7607 5885**

**Email:** [postbox@beaconhigh.org](mailto:postbox@beaconhigh.org)  
**Web address:** [www.beaconhigh.org](http://www.beaconhigh.org)  
**Headteacher:** Alan Streeter



3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear families,

### **Arrangements for a phased return to school**

I would like to begin by offering a huge 'thank you' for supporting the school over recent weeks and for supporting your child with their remote learning. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further help with home learning.

Our number one priority is the health and safety of our children, their families and our staff.

We have been undertaking thorough risk assessments, based on Public Health advice to enable our children to return when the risk assessment shows it safe for the whole community to do so. This will be a phased approach and will be closely monitored.

Between now and the end of the summer term we will be focusing on year 10 in the first instance. Key Stage 3 will continue to work from home for the time being.

Our schools will also continue to be open for:

- **Children of critical workers**
- **Vulnerable pupils: those with a EHCP, with a Social Worker, or those with vulnerability to whom the school have decided to offer a childcare place.**

We are very much looking forward to seeing our students once again. However, I would like to stress that we will be unable to operate a full service from the beginning of June as we need to match small groups of children to staff available to keep adults and children safe. While it will not be business as usual, we will endeavour to ensure that the face to face offer for children and families is of the highest quality.

I am therefore writing to share with you the arrangements we have implemented to ensure the safety of all staff, students and parents. We will continue to review the arrangements we have implemented and update you with any changes as and when we make them.

We recognise that some of you may have some concerns about your child returning to school and that for some children another change will be unsettling for them. We also understand that the past weeks will have been challenging for many families. If you would like to talk to us about your child and any concerns you have about their return to school, please – in the first instance – contact **Mrs MacDonald** or the Pastoral Team.

If your child has an EHC plan please contact the school SENCO, **Ms Hall** who will support you and your child with their return to school. EAL parents please contact **Ms Akhtar**.



**Executive Headteacher - Jo Dibb**

We are asking Year 10 parents to let us know their circumstances and to provide us with an indication whether their child/children will be joining us from the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. **Ms Lazarus** has been telephoning parents to collect this information. If you have not yet spoken to a member of staff, please call the school to let us know your intentions.

### **Phased Start:**

In order to ensure arrangements are as safe and secure as possible we will be operating a phased return. The school will be open to the different year Tutor Groups on the following dates:

- **10 Belle: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June**
- **10 Irvin: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June**
- **10 Kinsley: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**
- **10 Turing: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

This way there will be a maximum of 30 students in the building at any one time. As with all other arrangements we will keep this under constant review and we will not open the school to any students unless we are satisfied that it is safe to do so. We will keep you updated on a weekly basis.

### **School staff**

Your child will have teachers and support staff on hand during the day to ensure that they re-engage with their learning. We will have academic review conversations to identify key gaps in their learning. Our Maths tutor will also be on hand to do some one to one tuition.

### **Maintaining a safe school environment**

I would like to take this opportunity to explain to you the preventative measures the school has put in place in order to minimise the spread of infection.

Based on the latest public health and national advice, the following actions for infection control remain in place:

- There will be coronavirus infection control measures information posters around the school
- We will be encouraging good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap in the following circumstances:
  - Before leaving home
  - On arrival at school
  - After using the toilet
  - After breaks and physical activities
  - Before food preparation
  - Before eating any food, including snacks
  - Before leaving school
  - At regular intervals throughout the day
- Installing alcohol-based hand sanitiser dispensers that contain at least 60 percent alcohol throughout the school

- Ensuring students and staff understand that they must cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away
- Ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual
- Calling NHS 111 if someone becomes unwell, isolating any unwell people in a separate room, and providing a separate bathroom, where possible
- Telling staff to stay at home for seven days if they develop symptoms of coronavirus or until a test result is negative for coronavirus
- Providing staff training on PPE, rubbish disposal, mental health and well-being
- Students will remain in one room, with their own computer which will not be shared with other students during the school day
- Break times will be staggered so that they only mix with a maximum of 9 other students.

As an important part of our school community, I would ask that you continue to encourage good infection control practices, such as thorough handwashing, at home and keep your child informed about the things they can do to discourage the spread of infection.

In line with the current NHS and government advice, you should keep your child at home if they develop coronavirus symptoms for a period of seven days, unless they test negative for coronavirus. Symptoms include a high temperature or a new, continuous cough. Where symptoms continue after seven days, or begin to worsen, you should call 111. If someone in your child's household has symptoms, your child must self-isolate for 14 days from the day the other person's symptoms started. This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear. More information regarding symptoms and actions can be found on the NHS website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>).

All staff and students who are attending an education setting will have access to the national testing programme if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service. When a child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive or becomes ill in school, the rest of their class or group within their education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

If you think your child may have been exposed to or has coronavirus, or if your child receives a positive test result for coronavirus, please contact the school on 0207 607 5885 at the earliest opportunity.

### **The end of the school day**

The end of the school day is the busiest times for children and adults congregating together in one place and maintaining safe distances within normal arrangements can be a challenge. Therefore, there will be a staggered dismissal from school.

### **Arrangements for break times and lunchtimes**

We recognise the importance for all students to have a break from learning and to enjoy time outside during the school day. Reconnecting with friends will be an important aspect of

students settling back into school life, but we have made some adjustments to break and lunch times which will again be staggered so that they will remain with the same 10 students at all times. The classrooms and dining hall have been arranged so that there is a social distance between all seating.

### **The school day**

To minimise the number of students and staff assembling for periods of time, we have made the following changes to the school day:

- Students are expected to wear school uniforms, which should be washed as frequently as is practical. If there are issues with school uniforms, families should contact school before the 15th
- There will be 2 or 3 sessions across the day
- Students will be supported with their online learning in a face to face capacity
- School will start at 8.45am and finish at 12.30pm or 3.00pm
- There will be a morning, socially-distanced assembly before students go to their classes
- There will be sessions to support students' reintegration to school and support their well-being

### **School events**

Please note the following events have been cancelled – we will inform you of new dates and arrangements as soon as possible.

- Academic Review Day
- Sports Day
- Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Year 10 Parents' Evening
- Year 6-7 Transition Day
- Year 10 Work Experience

### **School Trips**

There will be no school trips taking place in the foreseeable future, although we will endeavour to ensure that there is as rich a curriculum offer as possible, although this may be delivered in different ways. This will be reviewed as the situation changes.

### **Transition from Year 6 to Year 7**

As in any year, our staff are working with Y6 students, their families and their primary schools to ensure that our new students make a positive start in Year 7. Families are receiving regular email updates and should check the dedicated page on our website for more specific information.

<https://www.beaconhigh.org/643/announcements/announcement/55/year-7-transition-welcome-to-beacon-high>

Be Awesome, Go Big is a package to help Year 6 students transition into Year 7. It can be used by students and parents at home. It is designed to be motivational, helpful and reassuring and to help young people feel valued, loved, encouraged and equipped for the journey ahead. A project from PiXL Club and Hachette Children's Group.

The resources are based on bestselling children's books You Are Awesome by Matthew Syed and Go Big: The secondary school survival guide by Matthew Burton.

Ms. Sonali Patel will be in contact with you via letter and text message regarding this project.

### **Support for students and families**

We do not underestimate how difficult the recent weeks have been for us all and we all will have been touched in some way by the coronavirus pandemic. We recognise the need to focus on students' emotional wellbeing as well as their return to learning. The following support is in place for pupils once they return to school.

- Recovery curriculum focusing on mental health and wellbeing
- Countdown activities prior to return for key stage 3 students
- Mindfulness journals for all students
- Group work for students struggling with anxiety and bereavement

If you have concerns about your child's mental health and well-being please contact the Safeguarding Team on 07857987398

Parents may wish to seek support for themselves from the following support agencies:

- Islington Council, voluntary sector and mutual aid groups are working together to provide support, there is a helpline 020 7527 8222 and an email [weareislington@islington.gov.uk](mailto:weareislington@islington.gov.uk).
- Children's Services Contact Team Social on 020 7527 7400
- For information and advice regarding issues of domestic violence please use the link below to access a range of services in Islington  
<https://directory.islington.gov.uk/kb5/islington/directory/results.page?qt=domestic+violence&term=&sorttype=relevance>
- Samaritans – call free 24 hours a day on 116 123
- Shelter provide free confidential information, support and legal advice on all housing and homelessness issues if you call 0330 0536 083 (please note, this is not a free phone number and your call will be charged). A free webchat is available at [https://england.shelter.org.uk/get\\_help/webchat](https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help/webchat)

I hope that these arrangements provide you with the information you need to support your child to return to school and once again please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully,



Mr A Streeter  
Headteacher