

8/01/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Lockdown Spring Term 2021

We are writing to you in regard to the national lockdown, government guidance and our plans for moving forward this half term.

We know that our control measures are highly compliant on site, however we are also aware that positive cases have been reported by staff, students and parents recently. We are therefore looking to implement a blended learning approach for all our schools for the following reasons:

- I) The extremely high transmission rates in South East London and surrounding areas at this time.
- II) The high number of infection rates nationally.
- III) The increasing number of deaths per day across the country.
- IV) To protect the NHS who are reporting overwhelming numbers of COVID-19 patients of all ages at this time – 10,000 admissions since Christmas Day with COVID-19.
- V) The fact that SEN/ Vulnerable children are 6 times more likely to become infected with COVID-19 than other children and young people.
- VI) To reduce transmission rates on school site to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff; if our school was full there would be approximately 120 different households mixing - You will be aware, pre lockdown and during the Christmas period, not even 2 households were permitted to mix.
- VII) To reduce the likelihood of infections being brought back into your home and to your families by implementing stringent health and safety measures in school, including the blended learning approach
- VIII) The government have stated that the peak of this wave of the virus is due in three to four weeks.

Our Blended Learning approach entails students accessing face to face teaching alongside remote learning, embedding what was delivered face to face and ensuring there is a well-sequenced approach to the curriculum. The school will arrange the days that your child will be able to access face to face support to ensure there are small numbers on site at any one time.

We will continue to operate the existing provision for our most vulnerable students and those of critical workers.

The government guidance states the following:

***'If the parent of a pupil wishes for their child to be absent from school, the parent should let the school know in advance that the pupil will not be attending and that they are making an application for a leave of absence.'***

We will therefore require you to provide, in writing, your intention for your child to remain home at this time. Full time Remote Learning will be provided to all students who make this choice and we will expect full engagement. Students who are not accessing school and are eligible for FSM vouchers will continue to receive them. We will also contact you on a daily basis as part of our welfare checks

1. I intend my child to remain at home during lockdown and request a leave of absence: **Yes/No**
  
1. If possible, I would like my child to attend school on site during lockdown. I understand the risks, and that despite effective control measures, the school cannot guarantee that my child will not become unwell. I understand that in requesting this option, the school is not able to guarantee a place for my child: Yes/No

**IMPORTANT: Bromley Beacon Academy, Bromley is not able to guarantee places due to a range of reasons, including workforce capacity, lockdown control measures and risk assessment.**

We will continue to review and update you at the earliest opportunity.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

**Mr Philip Tagoe**  
Head of School