

## Quick guide to re-opening measures for Bedstone College from September 2020

### Introduction

*Government guidance states:* "It is our plan that all pupils, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term."

Bedstone College is preparing for a "full return" from 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020, with "day" students joining on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

The government has set out its intent and plan for all children to return to school full time from the start of September. It is based on a **twin strategy of limiting contact between pupils and implementing hygiene measures**. Schools should implement a 'system of controls' identified by the Government. This document will identify those controls and how Bedstone College intends to implement them. Schools are told that "all elements of the system of controls are essential", but "the way different schools implement some of the requirements will differ based on their individual circumstances."

Since Bedstone College opened for a number of students in the Summer term 2020, we are familiar with many aspects of the system of controls already, eg thorough and regular handwashing and promoting good respiratory hygiene (the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach).

The main changes from the "Precautionary measures" we published in March 2020 relate to how contact between individuals is to be limited, this we endeavour to do in two main ways:

1. By ensuring pupils remain in consistent groups ('bubbles') wherever possible, thereby minimising the number of contacts between different people across the school
2. By maintaining distance between individuals wherever possible ('social distancing').

The DfE states "**if schools follow the guidance [from Government], they can be confident they are managing risk effectively.**"

The attached document "Bedstone College Guidance on re-opening Sept 20" has full details on the precautions we are implementing and the guidance influencing those decisions. Please take note of the COVID-19 parental agreement at the end of the document (Appendix C) as it assumes that by sending your child(ren) back to Bedstone you are agreeing to follow our (and government) guidance on staying safe.

It is a lengthy document, so here is a quick reference on practical measures we are implementing:

#### **Bubbles & Social distancing**

- We will group children by age or classes.
- Students will be taught in their usual classes, but be allowed to mix in 'bubbles' for games, breaks, lunchtimes & assemblies (plus wherever else may be deemed necessary as required).
- Classrooms will, where possible, be set up with as large a gap as practicably possible (ideally > 1m) and front facing.

#### **Traffic light wrist band system**

- See page 7 of the guidance.



### **Movement around School**

- There will be several one-way systems around school and designated areas for “bubbles” to relax in during breaks and lunchtimes.

### **Lunchtimes**

- There will be a rota system for getting meals at lunchtimes. The Junior School will take their lunch in the refectory every day; Senior School students will be on a rota system, with one week eating in the refectory and the next week having a “take away” style choice in the Rees Hall. See Appendix B
- Students will not be provided with drinks during mealtimes, so will need to bring in reusable plastic drinks bottles, which they can fill up at various stations throughout the day. *Bottles can also be purchased from school for £1.*

### **Daily Precautions**

- Parents will be expected to take their children’s temperatures each morning before school. For boarding students this will be done by their house parents.
- Students will sanitise their hands on arriving at school, before and after every lesson and break times.

### **Face Coverings**

- Masks will not be compulsory but may be brought from home and worn when students are not in class. Ideally face coverings should not be worn in class (page 4 of the guidance)

### **Gatherings**

- There will be no whole school assemblies, instead assemblies will take place on a rota system.
- There will be no public performances (including Speech Day). *This will be reviewed at half-term.*

### **Sports Lessons/Games Afternoons**

- Advice is changing regularly. Sports staff will follow National Governing Bodies (NGB) guidance which has been passed through the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS).
- There will be no external sports fixtures during the Autumn term, instead there will a greater number of inter-House events.

### **Uniform**

- Students will be allowed to attend school in their school PE kits on the days they have a games afternoon. On the other days they must wear school uniform. (page 5 of the guidance)
- A “home” (or non-school) PE kit may be worn for certain activities (to enable PE kit to be laundered between sessions)

### **Equipment & Resources**

- Students should try to limit the amount of equipment they bring from home to essentials and should not share equipment with fellow students.
- In art and DT aprons (or old shirts) should be brought from home.
- Classrooms will be cleaned thoroughly at the start/end of each day and tables and chairs will be sanitised during the day by teaching staff as required.
- Where possible, homework will be set on-line, reducing the need for exercise books to travel between home, class and teacher.

### **Transport/School buses**

When using school buses students will:

- Not sit next to, or directly behind the driver
- Queue before entering the bus.
- Be allocated a seat for every journey to and from school. *This means that only “regular” day students will be able to travel on the morning and evening routes while these precautions apply.*

- Use the hand sanitiser provided before getting on the bus and wear a face covering (brought from home) during the journey.

Parents are requested to not enter the minibuses. Drivers will supervise if any assistance is required.

### **Boarding**

Boarding numbers are low, but various precautions have been put in place to try to ensure the safety of our boarders. Please see page 7 of the guidance.

### **Pupil Absence**

- Usual procedures should be followed if a student is absent from school (ie phone school before 8:30am to inform of absence)
- If the absence is due to self-isolation (for example because a family member has tested positive for Covid-19) then work will be set on Google classroom or emailed home (tutors/class teachers will co-ordinate)

### **In the event of a Covid-19 outbreak in school**

- School will follow Government guidelines (see page 8)
- Parents will be expected to pick their children up immediately if they fall ill at school and certainly if they are showing coronavirus symptoms.
- School will inform parents if their child(ren) have been in close contact with another child who has tested positive for corona virus (although under data protection regulations they will not name the child who has tested positive)
- The Head, in consultation with the local public health protection team, decide whether school needs to close for a fixed period.

We expect all parents to abide by the government advice on staying safe and specifically to:

- Inform school if your child(ren), or anyone in your household, shows symptoms of COVID-19.
- Not send your child(ren) to school but to self-isolate for 14 days and get them tested.
- Abide by any guidance if contacted by the NHS "Track & trace" system and inform the school that they have been contacted.

### **Finally,**

We have also prepared a '**Plan B**', should a partial or full closure of the school be required. This would see us reverting back to the (successful) remote teaching and learning arrangements implemented during the Summer Term.