



# THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

## A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

21 July 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

As we approach the end of the school year, which has presented many challenges for all of our community, I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude at the fantastic support we have received as a school during these unique times and the manner in which you have supported your children and our staff in the School's remote learning strategy.

As many of you are aware, the Government recently released its guidance for schools, advising them how to safely re-open, ensuring both student's and staff's welfare are the top priority.

Within the guidance, the Department of Education states that schools need to create 'Year Group bubbles', that students do not lose any further education and are supported with their wellbeing and pastoral needs.

With such substantial changes being put into place for September, it is important that all of our community understands what School will look like after the summer and give our students a sufficient amount of time to prepare themselves for their return. We fully understand that returning to School will present some concerns for students and parents and whilst we acknowledge this and will have significant support in place to alleviate these feelings, we also feel that students will benefit from re-establishing daily routines and re-socialising with friends and staff in a familiar place.

In addition to this letter, there is a Parents Handbook explaining the logistics for re-opening in September and information on key issues such as:

- Hygiene in School
- Transport to School
- Food and Drink arrangements
- Start and Finish times to the school day and;
- Plans for reopening in September

We see the current situation as a wonderful opportunity to allow us to put into place new routines and establish higher expectations for our students that will support their re-introduction into their education and ensure we can return to a new normal as soon as possible.

### **Behaviour and Social Distancing:**

During the lockdown period, we re-issued our Behaviour for Learning Policy with an addendum, highlighting the expectations of the students with regards to social distancing and the repercussions of deliberately not following these or hygiene expectations. Our community's safety remains the primary concern and any student found to be behaving in a way that puts this at risk will be sanctioned accordingly.

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Willful lack of hygiene which poses a risk to others (such as deliberate coughing, spitting, use or dropping of chewing gum) will be treated as serious breaches of our behaviour expectations and high level sanctions are highly likely.

Our own Behaviour Policy will be amended to reflect the current situation (this can be found on the website) and these changes will also be clearly outlined to our students when they return. We currently operate a removal system from classrooms when learning is being disrupted and this will remain in place, as there is now an even greater need to protect our students' learning and wellbeing. However, we will aim to return these students to lessons if they are able to regulate their behaviour and return to their learning. If a student is unable to return, then we will use our Intervention Room which will be run like a classroom with social distancing in place. This does, therefore, diminish the capacity of the room, meaning repeated behaviours from a student could result in an exclusion.

Our detention system will also have to change due to staggered social times. This will see us temporarily return to an after school detention system. Parents will be informed on the day that their child has been placed in detention, with the intention for the student to sit the detention that day. If transport is an issue then they will sit the detention on the following day. The usual escalation procedures will apply if a student fails to attend the detention.

### **Uniform:**

Students will be expected to arrive at School in correct uniform, as identified on the School's website. Any student who arrives in incorrect uniform will be asked to return home (if possible) to correct the issue. The School will be unable to loan uniform to students due to the hygiene concerns this presents. We will be focusing on the continued improvement in the appropriate skirts being worn, top buttons being done up and no white sports socks being worn.

On the days students have PE lessons, they will be asked to arrive to School in full school PE uniform. Students will not be permitted to wear anything else for PE but the accepted PE kit which can be found on the website. Students should be encouraged to have correct footwear for the sport and facilities they are using, whilst also ensuring a rain jacket and a change of sports clothes are in their bags in the case of adverse weather. Girls will be able to wear black sports leggings for the activities however, will be expected to wear tracksuit bottoms for the remainder of the lessons that day.

In addition, I am aware the lockdown has provided an opportunity for students to experiment with a range of bright hair colours, however on the first day back natural hair colours must be back and plenty of time should be afforded in order to begin the stripping out process. Also, any new piercings will need retainers or removing prior to returning to School.

Any issues with obtaining or affording uniform, please contact Kate Bones via email at [kbones@buckinghamsschool.org](mailto:kbones@buckinghamsschool.org). The School also operates on a limited stock of nearly new uniform, which is available to those families who have experienced hardship during these unprecedented times. Further details of the nearly new uniform available can be obtained by emailing Kirsty Hunter at [khunter@buckinghamsschool.org](mailto:khunter@buckinghamsschool.org).

### **Bags and Equipment:**

Students **must** arrive at School with the correct equipment needed for that day in their own bag. This bag needs to be of a good quality to ensure their possessions are kept safe. The School will not be able to loan out equipment freely and there is a limited number of resources. This includes students having their own calculators as well as the relevant stationary required as outlined on our website. Students who routinely turn up with no, or inadequate equipment, will be sanctioned accordingly. Students should ensure they have the basics, including a glue stick, white board marker and coloured pencils, to support learning in bubbles.

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As well as all basic stationery items, our Reprographics Office also sells complete pencil cases consisting of pens, a pencil, ruler, highlighter, glue stick, rubber and a pencil sharpener at a cost of £5.00. Further details regarding the stationery available and their prices can be obtained by emailing [repro@buckinghamsschool.org](mailto:repro@buckinghamsschool.org).

### **Phone Policy:**

We will maintain our usual expectations of phones not being used on site and kept in bags and turned off. Any phone calls can be made from the Student Office during the day. Our policy of confiscation will continue.

### **Appointments**

Please note that the School will not be accepting any ad-hoc parental or external meeting requests. These need to be booked in advance, so the relevant cleaning and distance measures can be implemented. Meeting parents face-to-face will only be one adult and (if appropriate) the child. In all cases, we will ask why a virtual meeting or a telephone call is not possible.

Our regular visitors from outside agencies, music peripatetic teachers, supply teachers (on the rare occasions that they are needed) and so on, will continue to work with the School.

In the meantime, I hope it is an enjoyable summer for all and I look forward to seeing the students in September.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Wardle  
Lead Deputy Headteacher  
[mwardle@buckinghamsschool.org](mailto:mwardle@buckinghamsschool.org)

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