



OLD BUCKENHAM  
HIGH SCHOOL

*Be the best we can be*

5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the successful testing of students, I am pleased to say that we will be fully open as from Monday. Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your support with this, which has enabled OBHS to be one of the first secondary schools to fully reopen. There are still many challenges ahead after we reopen and I will try and address as many as I can below.

### Testing

As you may know, secondary schools have to test students three times within five days of each test. This will require us to undertake two further tests over the coming days. Unfortunately, this will lead to some disruption to lessons. The tests will be conducted as before and you will only be informed if the test result is positive. Please note that if you have given consent but your son/daughter has not yet had their test, they will need to report to the gym on arrival at school on Monday. Households and bubbles of school pupils and staff will have regular lateral flow testing made available to them, please follow the link for further information:

[Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

### Attendance expectations

We know that the return to school for some students will be very straight forward. However, we are also very aware that some students will require additional support. Our pastoral team are available to talk to you about how to reduce the anxiety some may be feeling. Attendance at school from Monday is compulsory for all students as detailed below:

### (Guidance from the Department for Education)

Attendance will be mandatory from 8 March 2021 and the usual rules on attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

### Covid measures and face coverings

All control measures will be in place as from Monday. Additional cleaning, the one-way system, zoned break and lunch time, provision of hand sanitisers and social distancing will be in operation and I would encourage you to discuss the importance of these measures before your son/daughter returns.

As you are aware the wearing of face coverings has been an expectation prior to Christmas in all enclosed spaces and classrooms. This approach is following Trust and national guidance and our Governors have agreed an updated behaviour policy which states that all covid measures should be adhered to. Some students are exempt from the need to wear a face covering, if you feel this applies to your son/daughter please contact Mr Cowan or Mr Taylor.



# Be the best we can be

## Uniform

Our uniform code is in place for all students except Year 11 who may wear their OBHS hoodie instead of their blazer. We do understand that students may have grown during the school closure, so please contact Mrs Wabe or Mrs Picksley if you have any concerns or questions regarding your son/daughter's uniform.

## Transportation

All school transportation will run as normal from Monday and it is still compulsory for students to wear face coverings for the entirety of the journey to and from school apart from those students with an exemption. Students who flout these rules may have their place on school transport removed. Could I also remind parents to avoid driving into the main reception at school arrival and departure times, note the speed and parking restrictions at other times.

## Friends of OBHS

Our fantastic group of parents who run the Friends of OBHS have donated two new five a-side goals for our new MUGA, which is the final touch to a great new facility that all students will benefit from. The dedicated group of parents are in need of new members, if we do not have any more volunteers the group may have to fold which would be a great shame. Please contact Lisa Groom, Chair of the Friends at [office@obhs.co.uk](mailto:office@obhs.co.uk) if you are willing to give up a small amount of your time.

## Assessments

A separate letter is being sent to Year 11 parents explaining the situation regarding GCSE and other examinations and how we will be awarding grades and what the coming months will be like for this year group.

The normal school curriculum will be in place for Years 7-10 and we will ensure a balance is kept between the need for us to understand if there are gaps in learning via assessments and not over burdening students on their return.

Finally, can I again thank you for your emails and letters of support. It has been a very difficult time for all and I do hope this is the last time we have to close the school. I look forward to meeting you very soon.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Fell  
Headteacher

