

29 August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Bradon Forest School and look forward to working closely with all members of the school community this year. Working in comprehensive schools for over 25 years, I am clear in my mind that the CARE values that run through Bradon Forest School demonstrate why this school is so highly regarded in the local area; my vision for your child's education is that every student at this school continues to be challenged, supported and inspired to achieve excellence in all areas of their lives.

The last two years have been incredibly difficult for young people, but I have been impressed with the resilience and adaptability that they have shown in the face of many different challenges. That said, many of our students will need increased pastoral care from our experienced and dedicated team of staff and, as always, we will work with you to support your child's wellbeing and progress.

Our main aim for September is to get all students back into good routines and habits so that they can fully access the curriculum in school and make the most of the extra-curricular opportunities on offer. We will therefore (as previously communicated to you by Mr Heathcote) be focusing on uniform, expectations in the classroom and attitudes to learning. We hope that the positives of getting these elements of school life embedded from day one, will enable the school community to run smoothly for the rest of the year.

We are excited about the start of a new academic year and we hope our students can experience greater freedoms as the restrictions lift. However, I am mindful that the current national picture continues to see cases rise and it would be remiss to not take a cautionary approach to September opening. The Government has produced guidance that control measures should remain in place during the Autumn in all education settings; they include practising good hygiene, ensuring the building is well ventilated and regular COVID testing throughout September.

Our Risk Assessment and Outbreak Management Plan outlines the control measures still in place at the start of term and can be found here [Risk-Assessment-Bradon-Forest-School-September-2021.pdf](https://bradonforest.org.uk/bradonforest.org.uk) on the Covid section of the website. Additionally, in the event of an outbreak, Local Directors of Public Health may advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures - these are listed in the Outbreak Management Plan (at the end of the risk assessment.)

Our Covid plans at present are as follows:

Testing

In addition to the two tests that students will undertake upon return to school, staff and students are expected to resume home testing twice a week until at least the end of September.

Anyone who tests positive on a lateral flow device should take a PCR test and follow government guidance that can be found here: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk). Close contacts of a positive case who are under 18 or fully vaccinated do not currently need to self-isolate but are encouraged to get a PCR test.

The school is no longer responsible for contact tracing – NHS Track and Trace will contact any close contacts identified by positive cases.



BRADON FOREST SCHOOL

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Online learning

For any student that tests positive and is well enough to work at home, the school will set online learning for them to complete.

Masks

Although the Government has recommended that face coverings and social distancing will no longer be necessary, including in schools and colleges, we would strongly recommend that students and staff continue to wear masks in corridors, lunchrooms when not seated and in other communal inside areas. We may politely ask certain classes to wear masks where a member of staff is deemed to be vulnerable.

Government guidance is that masks are 'expected and recommended on public and school transport.'

One Way Systems

We will continue to use a one-way system of walking around the buildings in the Main Block, Humanities and Maths.

Lunch and year group areas/bubbles

The school day reverts to the normal timings - see below. We will not be maintaining any year group bubbles at break times (unless we need to revert to the outbreak management plan).

In the classroom

Rooms will be ventilated (coats should not be worn in September). Teachers will decide the room layout and students can work freely in pairs or groups. The teacher and teaching assistant can move around the room to help students. In rooms where students use keyboards, these will be wiped at the end of the lesson. All rooms will continue to have hand sanitiser available for students to use on entry and exit.

School day timings

	TIME
Registration	08.45 - 09.05
1	09.05 - 10.05
2	10.05 - 11.05
BREAK 1	11.05 - 11.30
3	11.30 - 12.30
4	12.30 - 13.30
BREAK 2	13.30 - 14.25
5	14.25 - 15.25

Return to school in September

As previously communicated and in order to facilitate the testing programme, we are staggering the start of term for students.

Thursday 2 September – **Year 7 and peer mentors only**. Year 7 arrive and go to the Hall (staff and mentors will be on hand to direct them). They will be accompanied to the test site by their tutors and mentors and then return to tutor time

Friday 3 September – **Year 7 and Year 11 only**. Year 11 should go straight to the Sport Hall for testing. Year 7 go to tutor time.

Monday 6 September. **All year groups in school**. Year 10 arrive and go straight to Sports Hall for testing. Year 11 go to Hall for assembly. Year 8 and 9 go to tutor time and will be called for testing. Year 7 go to tutor time.

Key Dates:

Thursday 9 September – Year 7 Information Evening

Thursday 16 September – Bradon Forest School Sixth-Form Information evening (Year 11 students and parents)

Thursday 23 September – Open Evening

Friday 24 September – TD day (school shut to students)

27 September – 8 October – Open mornings for prospective parents and children

I hope this letter clarifies some of the questions that you may have about the return to school next week but if you do have any queries, please direct them to enquiry@bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk.

Thank you in advance for your support and I very much look forward to meeting you all in the coming months as we try to return to a more normal way of life in school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Haines', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Haines
Headteacher