

## Our 'Road Map' to full re-opening 8<sup>th</sup> March and beyond.....

### Do students have to attend school?

From March 8th, attendance is mandatory for all, unless students receive a positive test result or have to self-isolate.

It is vital for students to attend school or college to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on their education, wellbeing and wider development. The usual rules on school attendance apply to all students including:

We will work with families to reassure them and secure their child's regular attendance at school. Where students are not able to attend school, as they are following clinical or public health advice related to coronavirus (Covid-19), the absence will not be penalised.

If at any time the class bubble becomes short-staffed we will continue to work collaboratively with families to agree an approach that is in the child or young person's best interests.

### What safety measures are the school putting in place to keep everyone safe?

We will continue to add to and evolve our risk assessments to reflect and respond to central and local government guidance and Public Health England advice. Our latest whole school risk assessment can be found on our website by clicking the Covid 19 tab.

Some of the measures the school has put in place include;

- Increased cleaning procedures carried out by our maintenance team
- social distancing for staff (with signage as a reminder)
- regular rapid testing
- use of face masks
- provision of all PPE needed
- continued bubble approaches

Additionally, all staff have now had an opportunity to have their first vaccination against Covid-19, adding to their personal defence against the virus.

## Are EHCP Reviews and assessments continuing?

Throughout all three lockdowns, Belmont school has continued to hold annual reviews of Education Health and Care Plans and other 'Team around the Child' meetings. All therapies and support that would normally be in place for children and young people with EHC plans will be provided. However, there may be times when it becomes more difficult to do so than usual. In collaboration with local authorities and health partners we will work with families to co-produce alternative arrangements for delivering provision. These decisions will be considered on a case-by-case basis which takes account of the needs and circumstances of the child or young person.

## Do those who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) have to remain at home?

The advice for students who have been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) is to shield and stay at home until 31<sup>st</sup> March. We will provide remote education and pastoral support to students who are following guidance not to attend school on-site. Please link with us if you're not sure about your child.

Staff who have been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) must also shield and stay at home until 31<sup>st</sup> March. Currently we have 100% of our staff team working back in school 😊

All those who are within the CEV group should have received a letter from the Department for Health.

## Can we still have visitors to our school?

Therapists and other professionals will continue to visit the school to provide therapies and support, where this is reasonably necessary. This includes when the therapist needs to move between settings. If a child is at home, professionals should work together to agree how the EHCP provision can be delivered, for example in the home or virtually.

Other visitors who are not linked to vital provision of therapy or intervention for EHCP's will be welcomed back to the school in line with the 'Road Map' produced by the government and will most likely begin visits to school from 19<sup>th</sup> April onwards.

Any 'visits' or meetings that can take place virtually (especially meetings between staff and external professionals) will do. This will be reviewed in line with central and local government advice.

## What is the guidance for school transport?

Transport for those who currently receive it should be in place. Transport providers should take all reasonable actions to maximise social distancing where possible and transport staff and children over 11 are encouraged to wear a mask, but we understand not all our children can.

We will continue with the staggered start and finish times we had for arrival and departure of vehicles from site - as we had before lock down. We will be issuing reminders and information to parents and transport providers about this, but it's working really well, thank you.

## How will regular lateral flow testing work?

Testing remains voluntary but strongly encouraged. The guidance says settings will have discretion on how to test students as they return to the classroom, it goes on to say 'We have given specialist settings flexibility to be able to work with students and their families to agree the most appropriate way of them participating in twice-weekly testing.'

Staff testing will continue but should begin to be done at home when home kits are supplied.

Families will be offered optional home testing kits for students in the coming weeks. More information will follow on this.

Professionals and therapists working with our students on site will be asked for proof of a negative test or they will be offered a test on arrival.

## When should face coverings be worn?

Face coverings are worn by all staff and secondary aged students where social distancing cannot easily be maintained when moving around the premises outside of classrooms or teaching spaces, such as corridors and communal areas. The government also recommends the use of face coverings in classrooms and other teaching spaces (until Easter) unless wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity or for those who are exempt from wearing a face mask.

Exempt from wearing a mask means the following;

- cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of physical impairment, disability, illness or mental health difficulties,
- those who speak to or provide help to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate

Face visors or shields should not be worn as an alternative to face coverings. They may protect against droplet spread in specific circumstances but are unlikely to be effective in preventing aerosol transmission. Both a visor and face mask can be worn.

Essential visitors on site will also follow the guidance on face coverings detailed above.

## What will the curriculum look like?

Students will continue, for now, to work in 'bubbles' with minimal movement across classes. This also means that assemblies or large gatherings of students and staff up to 30 people are not planned potentially until 17<sup>th</sup> May, in line with the government's 'Road Map' guidance.

Students will continue to engage in their usual class learning and work towards their own personal academic and EHCP targets. Alongside this, we will also deliver elements of a 'Recovery Curriculum' focussing on student wellbeing and pastoral support. This will be planned and delivered on an individual, needs led basis.

As we navigate through the dates within the government's 'Road Map', we will also begin to have classes of students using facilities beyond their own rooms such as the school hall, soft play area and food technology room. We will do this in a measured way, considering risk control and the implementation of additional cleaning procedures.

We are hopeful that off site visits and school trips will also resume in the Summer term, potentially at step three of the government's 'Road Map' from 17<sup>th</sup> May. Again these will be subject to full and updated risk assessments.

## At Belmont...

Please note that all of the above advice and guidance may be subject to change. Much of what is planned over the coming weeks is based on the 4 steps of the government's 'Road Map'. If any of the steps are delayed due to a government response to data, then subsequent steps and dates will need to be pushed back in order to maintain the necessary 5-week period between each step.

At Belmont, I am hopeful that we can work hard to keep our school open, delivering the education, support and interaction that is so vital for our young people. We will also strive to communicate at all levels with you as staff and families to navigate this 'Road Map' together.

Please let me or my staff know if you have any queries about the information in this document or any further questions you would like to raise.

Many thanks for your wonderful support

*K. Day*

Kevin Day  
Headteacher