



Dear Parent/Carer & Student,

**RE: September 2020**

I hope that you and your family remain safe and well in what remains a challenging climate.

We must stay vigilant whilst the virus is still in circulation within our community but our aim is to return to as normal a college experience as possible, as soon as is possible. The expectation is therefore, that all staff and students will return to college in September for full days and on full timetables. This letter provides an outline of the logistical arrangements being put into place to enable this to happen whilst minimising the risks involved. As you can appreciate, the plans at the time of writing this letter are subject to change in reaction to the ever changing nature of advice and guidance published by the Government and the Department for Education. The plans which we have produced are lengthy and complex and therefore a guidance booklet separate to this letter will be posted on our website this week. It is likely that changes in guidance will occur over the summer period. I will therefore update the booklet with final guidance during the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> August.

The guidance booklet includes every aspect of a college students' day from their journey to and arrival to college; maintaining good hygiene systems; what they need to bring to college each day; how they will depart from college and what they should do if they have any concerns. In addition, there will be detailed information on: college operations, pastoral support, assessment; accountability and contingency planning for those displaying symptoms, suspected cases and plans to minimise disruption to learning.

### **The College 'Bubble'**

Year 12 will start college on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September** with year 13 returning the following day on **the 8<sup>th</sup> September**. We will provide an orientation support programme where students will be 'walked through' our new routines and procedures. Details of these procedures will also be published in our guidance booklet and shared on our website. Although the government have placed fewer restrictions on educational settings for example by removing the need for social distancing that is still in operation in wider society, they have left in place the requirement that year groups/bubbles should not mix. Year 12 and 13 will make up a 'bubble' and the vast majority of lessons for the year groups will take place in the college building. However, there are some subject areas which require specialist rooming e.g. Science labs, Art, DT, and Music rooms. Although these rooms will be used by other bubbles, additional cleaning protocols will be in place and individual risk assessments have been carried out by these subject areas. Each year group will also have a different break and lunch time slot to reduce the number of students queuing for food and using the dining facilities, allowing for social distancing.

On a normal college day students will arrive at college for an 8.25am start. In the autumn term students will be with their personal tutor for the first 30 minutes of the college day. For year 12 the focus will be on developing important study skills required at level 3 and on mental health. For year 13 the focus will be on university applications and other post-18 plans. These sessions form part of the learning hours for which students are funded and are compulsory. The college day will end at 2.38pm i.e. 2 minutes prior to the main school to allow for a staggered departure.

### **Year 11 into 12 Enrolment**

Although our normal arrangements involve a one-to-one in person enrolment interview with a college tutor for every student, we are unable to facilitate this in the current circumstances. As detailed in the recent communication regarding GCSE results day, students who have applied to BHC will receive a letter attached to their results detailing whether they



will receive a telephone call from their tutor to enrol, if they will need to meet with a tutor in college on results day to discuss their courses, or if they are being offered support by our careers adviser.

### **Year 13 Recovery Curriculum**

Subject areas have identified key areas of learning that were delivered to students during lockdown and in the first two weeks of term teachers will review this and essential knowledge will be revisited regularly throughout the academic year. Staff will plan the recovery curriculum based on the outcome of regular assessments and tailor provision accordingly. Once catch-up funding details have been released we will deliver a programme of in-college sessions, after college sessions, Saturday and holiday schools for year 13 to ensure that any gaps in knowledge are filled.

### **Remote Learning**

We will use everything we have learned about remote learning during lockdown for the benefit of our students. Resources will continue to be shared via Google Classroom and we will continue to develop high quality blended learning to ensure that where a class, group or small number of students need to self-isolate, or there should be a local lockdown, we will be able to instantly revert to home learning.

### **Student Well-being**

We do not underestimate the importance of our role in helping our staff and students to recover emotionally from the impact of this pandemic and we recognise that for each individual this will be very different. To ensure each individual student's needs can be met, all of our staff are accessing updated mental health training with additional members of the Pastoral Team due to undertake the Mental Health First Aid Training. We are hopeful that a return to routine will positively impact on student's mental health and we will work hard to ensure that students settle in as quickly as possible and re-establish the positive working relationships they have with staff and fellow students. The additional contact that students will have with their personal tutors will play an important role in this.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents of current year 12 students for your support in keeping students on track with remote learning and maintaining lines of communication with us and of current year 11 students for encouraging their attendance to our tutor induction meetings and engagement with transition materials.

I know that the college team is very much looking forward to welcoming students back, as am I. I sincerely hope that you have an enjoyable summer whatever your plans.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhianne Bond".

Rhianne Bond  
Head of College