

Brentford School for Girls Re-Opening FAQ

Is it safe for my child to return to school?

We have produced a thorough risk assessment at Brentford School for Girls which outlines the risks and the measures we have put in place to keep everyone safe. While we cannot guarantee there is no risk to your child, we feel that we have reduced the risk as much as is possible given the information we have to hand. We have based our risk assessment on the following:

- The government have said it is safe enough for schools to open with a phased return for pupils
- The school community attending each day is well and symptom free
- There is enough staffing available to open the school safely
- The facilities meet health and safety regulations for spacing, and upscaling hygiene and cleaning routines
- The internal class communities maintain a 2m social distance to reduce the likelihood of transmission of any pathogen
- The school continues to keep accurate registers of who is onsite so that contact tracing will be possible if a member of staff or pupil become symptomatic

Specific measures have been put into place to help keep everyone safe and these are outlined in more detail in the questions and answers below.

Which children will return to school?

As of Tuesday 9th June the school opened to children of key workers, students with Education, Health Care Plans and those students who receive additional family support from external agencies. Following the Government's guidance to offer some "face to face contact to support with virtual learning" to students in Year 10 and Year 12 we are looking to open for Y10 and Y12 students taking a phased approach with the number of students that we invite in increasing each week. From the 16th June the only Y10 students coming into school will be those who have not as yet logged into Google Classroom or have not submitted a sufficient amount of work. In the subsequent weeks students will be invited in for 1:1 appointments with their tutors and subject teachers with the only small group teaching taking place for Year 12 in the week of the 6th July.

If my child is eligible will my child attend school every day?

The school week will run from Monday to Thursday and the school will be closed on Fridays. This is so the facilities can be deep cleaned in preparation for the following week. If your child is in Year 10 or Year 12 they will receive a letter detailing the days and times that they will need to attend school.

Will school keep its' usual opening hours?

No. School will have a shortened day and have staggered start and end times to avoid students and staff having to travel on public transport at peak times.

Students who are children of keyworkers or have an EHCP can arrive at school between 9.45 and 10.00am and will be dismissed individually from 1.55pm so that they leave the school by 2pm. All other students in Y10 and Y12 who are allocated a specific time to attend must ensure that they attend school at that time and leave the school site immediately once they have met with their tutor / teacher.

We have decided to reduce the school day for a few reasons. Firstly, it will enable the class teachers to still effectively manage the Google classroom lessons for children who are still learning from home. Secondly, some of our children may be very anxious about returning to school or leaving the family home and a reduced day will help them to ease back into school life. We have also considered the start and end times of other local schools to try and reduce the number of students on public transport at the same time. Finally, because the school will be open to staff and students we have reduced the working hours to ensure there is sufficient time to prepare, sanitize and allow for deep cleaning for the following week.

How big will the class sizes be and what will the classroom look like?

Classes will have a maximum capacity of 15 children and we are anticipating less than 15 students in each classroom. For 1 to 1 appointments your daughter will be given an appointment time with a member of staff at a time that is specific to her and will reduce her chances of meeting other students in school.

How will school minimize the risk of contamination of the virus?

The school have undertaken a thorough risk assessment and there are lots of measures in place to help prevent the spread of Covid19. Some of the key measures are as follows:

- All children and staff who display symptoms must stay at home. If you believe your child has symptoms please inform the school as soon as possible and arrange for them to be tested. Our local testing ground is at Twickenham rugby site.
- Staggered start and finish times to avoid congestion.
- One way system introduced for handwashing using facilities in our Technology block.
- Reinforcing a strict handwashing regime. Hand sanitisers will be available in the classrooms and outside of the Theresa block
- A sink is available within the Theresa block for students to wash their hands during the day

- Reduced number of staff on site. We have made the decision to not have midday supervisors on site to try and limit the number of people your child comes into contact with. The teacher (s) and teaching assistant (s) who is with your child that day will supervise them at lunch time.
- Regular handwashing. Students will wash their hands on entry to the school building, before and after breaktimes, before and after eating and before they leave the school building. Hand sanitiser will be available in between these times.
- Encouraging social distancing at all times.
- The picnic benches have been labelled so that two students can sit at a picnic bench and be socially distanced.
- There will be no assemblies.
- Computers, equipment and resources will be cleaned after use using antibacterial spray.
- The school has had a deep clean and we will continue to clean the site including frequent contact areas such as door handles regularly throughout the day.
- Doors will be kept open wherever possible to reduce the reason for students and staff to contact door handles.

Does my child need to wear personal protective equipment (PPE)?

No. Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools is not recommended. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings should not be worn as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. Your daughter may choose to use a face mask to and from school if she wishes.

What if my child is eligible but has siblings who are not?

We are asking that only the eligible students from each year group return to school. Currently this is only students in our vulnerable category (all year groups) and children of key workers. After the 15th of June, some year 10 and 12 pupils will be invited back into school. This does not include siblings in different year groups unless those siblings are in a priority group, for example, have an EHCP or have already been accessing our key worker provision.

If my child is eligible, is it compulsory for them to attend school?

It is not compulsory for your child to attend school however we strongly encourage children who are eligible to attend unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions). 1 to 1 appointments with teachers will undoubtedly provide the much needed support that can help your

daughter access the home learning more successful and therefore we would like to urge her to attend.

What will my child be learning at school?

The curriculum will be focused around independent, individual learning activities using Google Classroom. As of Monday 8th June students will be following a streamlined curriculum of 2 or 3 subjects per day.

For Year 10 and Year 12 students will be able to talk about any pastoral or academic support they may need so that they can have even more success at accessing the home learning

What if a child or member of staff show symptoms of Covid19?

If a child or member of staff is showing symptoms of covid19 they should remain at home and get tested as soon as possible. They should then isolate for 7 days and their fellow household members should isolate for 14 days. Staff and pupils in all settings will be eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms. If a child or member of staff start to show symptoms when at school they will be isolated immediately and sent home. Immediate cleaning of any specific equipment that the child or staff member has touched will be undertaken. Parents will be informed that their child has been in contact with a symptomatic person to enable you to keep a close eye on your child.

If there is a confirmed case of covid19, as in they have received a positive test result, the rest of their class will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that class do not need to self-isolate unless the child they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

What if I need to speak to my child's class teacher?

We will be running a rota over the Summer half term to support students in school so there will be different members of staff available each day. If you have a query we recommend that you contact your daughter's form tutor or head of year. In order to reduce the number of people on site, we ask that you email or phone us with any questions or concerns that you may have. If you feel that your question or concern cannot be dealt by over the phone or by email, please make an appointment.

What if my child doesn't want to come to school?

We are encouraging all eligible children to attend school. We know that children learn best at school and it is good for your child's mental well-being to have social interactions with their peers and equally teachers and familiar adults. There will be lots of support in school to help your child overcome any anxieties that they are experiencing. We would encourage you to talk to your child and discuss the reasons

why your child may not want to attend. If your daughter is unable to attend at the appointment time given then please contact the school so the time can be changed.
PLEASE NOTE THAT PARENTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCOMPANY THEIR DAUGHTERS TO THE 1:1 TUTORIAL MEETINGS BEING HELD

My child is entitled to free school meals. Will they still receive a school dinner?

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals they will be entitled to a school packed lunch.

My child normally has school dinners. Will the school dinners still be provided?

All children who are not FSM will be required to bring a packed lunch to school. Your child should also bring a mid -morning snack with them such as a piece of fruit.

Does my child need to wear school uniform?

No. Your child does not need to come into school wearing their school uniform.

What can I do to support the school?

It would be very helpful if you could take your child's temperature before leaving the house. This will help prevent contamination if your child is unwell.

Where possible we will be providing opportunities to be out of the school building during break and lunchtime. Please ensure that your child comes to school with a water bottle, a hat and has had sun cream applied before school.

Where possible walk to school and try to avoid public transport. Encourage children to regularly wash their hands at home and when out and about use antibacterial hand gel.

If you are dropping off or picking up your child please come alone if possible and do not gather in groups at the gate.

Please ensure that if your daughter is given a specific appointment time she attends punctually at this time.

