



# BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

## BRENTFORD 6<sup>th</sup> FORM

VISION | CREATIVITY | EXCELLENCE

HEAD TEACHER: MARAIS LEENDERS | 5 BOSTON MANOR ROAD, BRENTFORD, TW8 0PG | TEL: 020 8847 4281 | EMAIL: GENERAL@BRENTFORD.HOUNSLOW.SCH.UK | WEB: WWW.BRENTFORD.HOUNSLOW.SCH.UK

25th February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **RE: Latest Covid Update in response to governments 'Living with Covid' proposals**

Welcome back to a new half-term, I hope that you and your daughter both had a restful break. As you will be aware the government's announcement on Monday has changed things quite significantly in terms of covid restrictions. Their new plan entitled 'living with covid' focuses on life returning to some kind of normality now that the level of vaccinated children and adults has risen significantly, and case numbers are low. The most recent announcement identified the following changes:

- Twice weekly testing is no longer a requirement in schools
- The legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test has been removed. This guidance is now **advisory** for adults and children
- Adults and children required to stay home for 5 consecutive days and continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days following the 5 days isolation- This is now advisory
- Close contacts of someone who tests positive no longer need to test daily, even if unvaccinated
- Routine contact tracing by the NHS is being deleted

### **What does this mean at Brentford?**

We will no longer be asking staff and students to test twice weekly, and as such will no longer be receiving lateral flow testing kits from the central government. However, whilst the legal requirement to self-isolate has been removed for those who test positive, we are following the government's advice and are expecting **staff and students who test positive to remain at home and follow the guidance**. This guidance continues to stipulate that the isolation period must be 5 full days. The isolation period can end once the person has had two negative lateral flow tests on two consecutive days following the five-day isolation period. Those who are close contacts of someone who has covid are expected to come into school as per the guidance.

**"TOP 100 NON-SELECTIVE STATE-FUNDED SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY" NICK GIBB, MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCHOOLS (FEBRUARY 2016)**



## Masks

We have continued to ask the students to wear masks in school. As from Monday 28th February, mask wearing will be made **advisory** in school, rather than compulsory.

Whilst much of the guidance is now advisory, this does not mean that Covid is now finished and we now do not need to consider safeguarding the wellbeing of our school community and others. Please can I ask that you and your daughter continue to remain extra vigilant, and that she does test if you think she may have covid. Tests will continue to be available in most local pharmacies. We do also know that mask wearing can make a difference to the spread of the disease and whilst we will not be enforcing this as compulsory in school, if you do have vulnerable family members at home who you are worried about, you may want to encourage your daughter to continue wearing this.

At the end of last half term, we were able to invite parents and families into school to watch our school play. It was lovely to meet so many of you face to face finally, and with the reduction in restrictions we are looking forward to being able to meet lots more of you over the coming weeks and months. Our next face to face event will be held on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March** when we will be inviting **year 10 parents** into school to meet with us. Further details to follow.

Thank you so much for all of your support over the last two years with helping us to manage and implement the restrictions in school. It has been very much appreciated, and in the main, has kept us all safe.

Yours faithfully,



Marais Leenders

**Headteacher**

*If you are invited to come into school, as a parent/carer or any other purpose we are asking, to assist with reducing the spread of Covid 19, to bring and wear a mask at all times whilst on the school site and to complete a 'Test and Trace' form. Many thanks for your cooperation.*