

308 Brownhill Road
Catford
SE6 1AU
020 8698 6675
info@ywh.org.uk



Tuesday 1st September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer(s) and Students,

I hope you and your families are safe and well and you have enjoyed the Summer.

We are looking forward to welcoming the students back to the Young Women's Hub on Monday 7th September 2020.

Due to the Pandemic and Lockdown we will be introducing a slightly shorter day for the first term, the day will start at 10am and finish at 2:15pm. The focus for the first term will be reintegrating the students back into school and helping them getting back into a routine and learning.

The curriculum for the first term will be focusing on wellbeing and the reintegration of classroom learning.

Attendance

In March, when the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic was increasing, it was made clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school.

Now the circumstances have changed, it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

All staff and students will be expected to follow Government Guidelines regarding helping with the prevention of COVID-19, we will be implementing the following at school:

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Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.

Ensuring that pupils, staff and other adults do not come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or have tested positive in at least the last 10 days and ensuring anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home, are essential actions to reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).

If they have tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms.

Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

Face Coverings in Schools and Public Transport

The government is not recommending universal use of face coverings in all schools. Schools that teach children in years 7 and above and which are not under specific local restriction measures will have the discretion to require face coverings for pupils, staff and visitors in areas outside the classroom where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, such as corridors and communal areas and it has been deemed appropriate in those circumstances

Face coverings are required at all times on public transport, except for children under the age of 11.

Safe Wearing and Removal of Face Coverings

Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully.

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Pupils must be instructed not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it and they must dispose of temporary face coverings in a 'black bag' waste bin (not recycling bin) or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.

Clean Hands thoroughly more often than usual

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin. This can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser. The YWH will ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. Regular and thorough hand cleaning is going to be needed for the foreseeable future

Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important, YWH will ensure we have enough resources available in the school to support pupils and staff to follow this routine.

Enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often

The staff at the YWH will ensure there is frequent cleaning of rooms and shared areas that are used by different groups and frequently touched surfaces being cleaned more often than normal.

Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.

Response to Infection

Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process

As a school we must ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- **book a test** if they or their child are displaying symptoms. **Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school.** All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit

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- provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or if anyone in their household develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus](#) website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

We will ask parents and staff to inform us immediately of the results of a test and follow this guidance.

1. If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
2. If someone tests positive, they should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

We need to make sure we are all doing our part in keeping everyone safe.

Lunches

For the first 2 weeks of the new term we will be providing sandwiches, fruit and snacks for lunch. If students prefer to bring a packed lunch this is permitted.

Water Bottles

We recommend students bring their own water bottles into school.

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Equipment

We will provide equipment for the students, they will have their own pen, pencil etc. Again, if students prefer to bring in their own equipment this is permitted – we ask equipment is not shared with other students.

We understand it has been a long time since the students have attended school and will be there to offer to support to the students and Parent/Carer(s). This has been and is a difficult time and we all need to ensure we play our part in keeping everyone safe and start to get back to some normality by adhering to the Government guidelines and getting back into our daily routines.

If you have any concerns regarding the students returning to school or any of the above, please contact us on 0208 698 6675.

Yours sincerely,

Chloe Scott