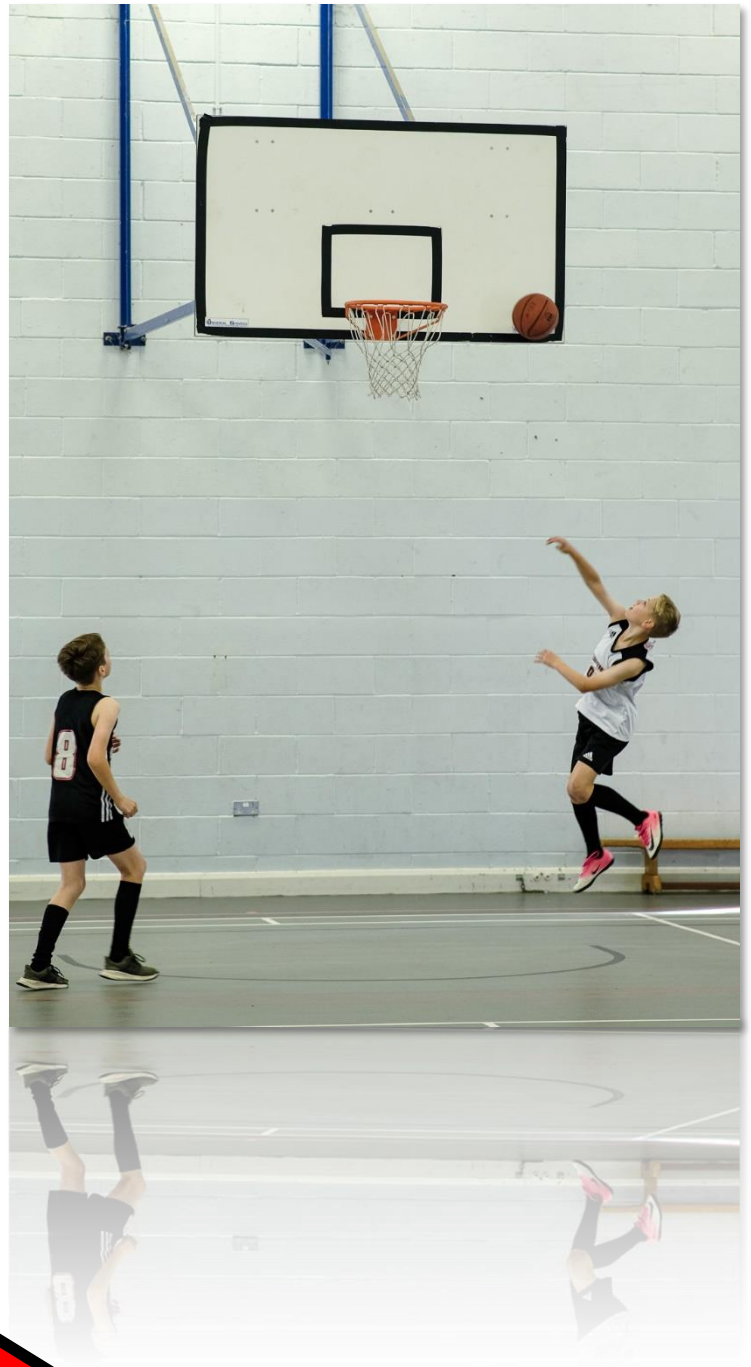




Returning to School
A Guide for Families
January 2022

**Robert
Bloomfield
Academy**



Welcome back



Happy New Year! We all hope you and your family had a restful Christmas holiday despite the growing infection rates in our community and nationally. We have updated our Risk assessments over the holiday but imagine these will be updated again in the coming days and weeks. As always, all documents, including this one, can be found on our dedicated Covid section on the [school website site](#).

Context behind our policy. *This section remains unchanged, but our new families who have joined us this year may wish to review why we follow the secondary guidance across all year groups. If you have read this previously, please skip forward to the January 2022 updates on the next few pages. We have kept this brief !!*

It is important to note that since March 2020, we have followed the policies and procedures for **secondary education settings**. The DfE has not, to date, recognised Middle schools in their guidance.

- Of the 97 Middle Schools in England operating a Y5-Y8 curriculum, we are by far the largest school with 990 students – 8 (9 in Y5 this year) Form Groups in each year.
- The average size of a secondary school in England (Years 7-11) is 986 (6.5 Forms of entry per year) and in Primary (R-Y6) is 281 (1.5 Forms of entry per year).
- Not only are we the largest middle school, we have the largest single entry of students sitting the KS2 SATs examinations year on year, meaning whilst we are not the largest overall school (considering we only have 4 academic year groups), we are the largest primary provider by number of students in a given year group.

This data is to demonstrate why we do not fit into the typical *Primary School* model which the DfE and PHE use to create guidance. In our KS2 years, we do not operate a “one teacher, one class” experience where students remain in one room with one teacher throughout the day. We are a very large campus site (by Primary sector standards) and offer a phenomenal curriculum, taught by a variety of subject specialist teachers. This means Years 5+6 move around more than they would in a primary school and teachers move across all years and bubbles, exactly as our secondary school colleagues do.

As such, all guidance and requests for “secondary” schools applies to every year group at RBA when on site at RBA. KS2 do not however need to conduct twice weekly asymptomatic testing

Fundamental principles of this plan:

- Driven by student and staff safety
- Follows the expert guidance from the PHE, DfE, NHS and our own external H+S Partners
- Considers the emotional well-being of the students and staff as a priority
- Is a measured approach
- Is evidence-based

This plan was produced in consultation with;

- BEST Health and Safety Partners
- NHS, DfE and PHE published Guidance
- The RBA Staff and Local Academy Governors
- Teacher and School Workforce Union Representation
- Based on following DfE Publications

- ☑ In all cases, we ask that students follow excellent examples of personal hygiene. Regular wash of their hands and also ensuring they have their own personal supply of antibac gel/ or use the school supplies in every classroom.
- ☑ Students are reminded to follow the one-way system as well.
- ☑ Classrooms are required to be well ventilated. Students are reminded to dress appropriately for chillier than normal classrooms.

On Site Testing – Wednesday 5th Jan KS3 Only

- KS3 will return to RBA on Wednesday 5th January for onsite testing.
- They will be form based in the morning working on a number of Careers and Electives projects and we hope to resume normal lessons by the afternoon.

Asymptomatic Testing at home

- Staff and KS3 students should continue to test twice weekly at home, with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3-4 days apart. Testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged.

Staggered Start

- As per correspondence sent to all families at the end of the last term, a reminder about our staggered return this week to allow for the On-Site Testing to take place safely.

Key Stage	Wednesday 5 th January	Thursday 6 th January
2 (Years 5+6)	Remote Learning Day (Please see previous Parent Mails)	All Students return to RBA for a normal day We are on Week One of the Timetable
3 (Years 7+8)	On Site Testing and Tutor Day on site Normal Lessons to resume in the afternoon	

Facemasks/ Coverings

Following the latest guidance release from the DfE;

- All students **in all years**, unless exempt for medical reasons, will need to wear face coverings
 - on all public and school transport,
 - inside our school buildings
 - in classrooms, (following the Government’s guidance released on Sunday).
- Face coverings do not need to be worn when
 - outdoors
 - partaking in a practical lesson such as PE or Dance, Drama
 - when eating in the Café
 - when playing a musical instrument

This additional measure will be reviewed by the Government on Wednesday 26th January as part of their assessment of “Plan B”. Please ensure your child has at least two face coverings with them. We have a limited supply for any student who forgets, but it is ultimately the responsibility of the family to ensure masks are provided.

- **No student will ever be denied education on the grounds of whether they are, or are not, wearing a face covering.**
- **We will never ask for any form of proof of exemption.**
- **Students do not need to wear anything to demonstrate exemption – they simply can reply they are exempt if asked**

Remote Learning

- If your child is required to isolate, and providing they are well enough, they should attempt to follow their daily timetable on Google Classroom.
- Supplementary independent work can be found on the Oak Academy or BBC Bitesize websites – all linked from our [curriculum section on the school website covid area.](#)

Change to Isolation Period

- As of December 22nd, the period of isolation following a positive COVID19 has reduced to 7 days in most cases.
- On day 6 & day 7 of self-isolation, an individual should complete a lateral flow test at home (these must be 24hrs apart). If both tests are negative the isolation period is over and your child can return to the academy – if no symptoms are present.

Close Contacts

- Fully vaccinated adults and school aged children remain exempt from self-isolating when identified as a close contact; however, they should take a daily LFD for 7 days as a precaution; isolate if they develop symptoms and book a PCR test

Do not send your child to school if:

- They are showing one or more [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
- They have had a positive test result
- There are other reasons requiring them to stay at home, for example, they are under instruction from a GP or [required to quarantine](#)
- Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a PCR test to confirm result.
- If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

School Attendance

- The DfE reminds families that school attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

Wellbeing Support

Your first port of call should be the Form Tutor or then Head of Year. If you have a concern that needs specific support, you can contact the Wellbeing Team directly. All contact details are on our school website. We appreciate however there will be times out of hours where you or your child may need additional support. On top of our dedicated Pastoral Support and Wellbeing Team at RBA, there are a number of recommended online resources available to help you and your child with mental health and wellbeing, including:

- [MindEd](#), is a free educational resource on children and young people's mental health
- [Rise Above](#), aims to build resilience and support good mental health in young people aged 10 to 16
- [Every Mind Matters](#), has an online tool and email journey to support everyone in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing
- [Bereavement UK](#) and the [Childhood Bereavement Network](#), provide information and resources to support bereaved pupils, schools and staff

There is also support specifically for children and young people, including:

- free confidential support that can be accessed any time by:
 - texting SHOUT to 85258
 - calling Childline on 0800 1111
 - calling the Mix on 0808 808 4994
- online information on COVID-19 and mental health is available on the [Young Minds website](#)
- [Think Ninja](#) is a free app for 10 to 18 year olds to help build resilience and stay well
- [Rise Above](#) aims to build resilience and support good mental health in young people aged 10 to 16

Barnardo's See, Hear, Respond service, provides support to children, young people and their families who aren't currently seeing a social worker or other agency, and who are struggling to cope with the emotional impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19). Use the [See, Hear, Respond' service self-referral webpage](#) or Freephone 0800 151 7015.

DfE guidance for School and Families

The Government has updated its guidance for families here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

The School Guidance can be found, in full, here https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=087da2cb-8e81-43e8-bbe1-cef41feedb8b&utm_content=immediately

The DfE contingency Framework can be found, in full, here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings>

Acronyms

RA	Risk Assessment
KS	Key Stage
Yr	Year
HoY	Head of Year
DfE	Department for Education
H+S	Health and Safety
DfT	Department for Transport
CST	Consortium of School Trusts
CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
LA	Local Authority
PHE	Public Health England
BEST	Bedfordshire Schools Trust
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
BMA	British Medical Association
WHO	World Health Organisation
LFD	Lateral Flow Device
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction



As with all previous handbooks, we must stress that national guidance may change at any point.
The information in this booklet is correct at the time of production.