



Ref: March Return Letter

Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Assalamalaikum Wa Rahmathulahi Wa Barakathuhu

Dear Parent/Guardian

We hope and pray you are all keeping well and are keeping safe.

Please remain reassured your governing body, Head teacher and school continue to work hard to ensure every young person is fully supported whilst we make plans for them to return to School. I understand that some young people (and their parents) may be nervous about returning after such a long period of time away. If you are concerned your child may need additional support in returning to school, please contact our Pastoral Lead, Ms Waseem via email on sadia.waseem@boltonislamicgirlsschool.org.uk.

The information shared with you last week is giving you an indication of the changes we need to make to school because we have risk-assessed all of the ways in which students (and staff) could transmit/catch COVID19 in our school and have put many controls in place to prevent this. Our risk assessment is updated regularly to ensure we are making the correct changes as and when the government advise. This and all other policies updated with addendums for Covid19 are available on our school website on <https://boltonislamicgirlsschool.org.uk/covid19-information/>.

Please read the below information regarding March return carefully to help to continue to support and keep BIGs safe:

Lateral Flow Testing

You have already received information from school regarding Lateral Flow Testing at BIGS. **Students will only be tested in school if both they and their parents have consented to the test taking place.** So far 70% of our families have consented to their child being tested and for that I thank you.

All young people who have given consent will have 3 lateral flow tests during their first 2 weeks at school. From this point we will be distributing lateral flow kits for young people to test at home. More information on this will be shared with learners in School.

As consented students have to have a negative test result in the first test before returning to School, we have decided the initial testing to take place on Monday 8th March. All students will be split up into groups and be given a specific appointment time to attend school for the testing on this date. The time will be emailed to them and parents informed via text message. It is crucial that students come at the appointed time only as social distancing with staff and other pupils must be maintained at all times when attending school on this date.

All work will continue to be available on-line on TEAMS as normal on Monday 8th March for all learners.

Return Schedule information

- All students will be expected back in School at 8.15am on Tuesday 9th March 2021.
- Each year group will have one classroom assigned to them, in which they will remain for the full day. At form time the students should go to the following classrooms:

Year group	Designated Room
Year 7	Room 6
Year 8	Science Room
Year 9	Room 1
Year 10	ICT Room
Year 11	Room 2

- Outdoor Break and Lunch will be on a rota basis per year group.
- Staggered finish times will continue as before, and we ask that all parents continue to collect learners at the correct times and maintain social distancing with other parent's, at all times. A reminder that year 7 get collected at 2:45pm and other groups at 5minute intervals thereafter.

Attendance

In line with government guidance student attendance at school is mandatory from Tuesday 9th March 2021. However, **students who are clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice. If your child is in this position please can you contact their Head of Year and share a copy of their NHS shielding letter.

The usual rules on School attendance apply (please read school attendance policy addendum for covid19 available: <https://boltonislamicgirlesschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Attendance-policy-coronavirus-addendum-March.pdf> .

In brief:

- pupils of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies.
- the school has the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

A small number of pupils **must not attend school** in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- **have symptoms or have had a positive test result**
- **live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact**
- **are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)**
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area (<https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control/self-isolating-when-you-arrive>)

Please note pupils have to quarantine for 10 days after traveling from abroad either in a quarantine hotel if traveling from a red list country or at home. A list of red list countries can be found here:

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transport-measures-to-protect-the-uk-from-variant-strains-of-covid-19>)

All lessons will continue to occur remotely on teams live on-line and all learners self-isolating without symptoms or illness will be expected to attend on-line.

Protective measures

All processes and systems that we introduced in September will continue, however please note in line with Government guidance our rules on face masks will change. **All students (except those with exemptions agreed by their Head of Year) must now wear a mask in classrooms, all communal areas and in the corridors**. This is a short-term measure, introduced by the Government to reduce the risk of transmission.

Other key information to remember:

- 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.
- Pupils **must not touch the front** of their face covering during use or when removing it and they must dispose of temporary face coverings in a 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.
- Pupils will be required to bring a clean, washable facemask to school each day. The mask must not be attached to clothing e.g. scarfs and must not be of the snood/pull up variety.
- Parents will need to support their child by washing their facemask each evening.

This Friday, 5th March all learners will be required to attend a live event at 12pm via Microsoft Teams. Giving us the opportunity to share important information with learners about School re-opening.

Key things to be getting ready now

1. Please carefully read the first section of this letter to identify when your child will be returning to school and ensure your child understand their start date. Please reassure them that live lessons will continue until they return to school.
2. Please ask your child to try on their shoes and uniform now to ensure it fits. This will give you time to purchase anything needed. Any plain black Jubba is acceptable and black shoes or trainers. T-shirts and black leggings with black socks should be worn underneath the Jubba. Due to increased ventilation in school during this time students are allowed to keep coats on during lesson times. No Hoodies are allowed. Only Black cardigans or school cardigans are allowed. Any incorrect uniform will be confiscated.
3. Please ensure jewellery /nail varnish/fake eyelashes/fake nails are removed in readiness of your child's return to school next week.
4. Please encourage your child to start getting their school bag in order. They should be finding their exercise books and equipment in readiness of their return to school. **Teachers will not be expecting students to have printed out all their online work, we will support young people in school getting the notes that they need.**
5. Please support your child and provide them with the correct equipment. They will not be allowed to share any equipment and alternatively will have to purchase anything missing from school admin.
6. Please ensure students have enough food and snacks to bring for lunch and break as the tuck shop continues to be closed.
7. Your child will require their full PE kit for practical lessons in school, please ensure that this is ready. PE will take place outside. **Learners should come to school in their PE kit on the day that they have their PE lesson.** This is to ensure that there is no issue with social distancing in the changing area. Please make sure that your daughter brings a coat to school on the day of her PE lesson – as it will take place outside come rain or shine!
8. Please talk to your child about the reopening of school and encourage them to be positive and excited. Please reassure your child that we are really excited to be welcoming them back. We will be starting this term in a positive way, students shouldn't worry about being 'told off' about outstanding work from remote learning, things have been very hard and they should be reassured that we will be understanding.

Visiting School

- We will be managing visitors to the school site to minimise the risks of transmitting the virus.
- **Parents/carers should not come to school** unless they have pre-arranged appointment; are invited or unless there is an emergency.
- Should you wish to make an appointment to see a member of staff please contact our main reception and wherever possible a phone call will be arranged instead.

FEES PAYMENTS: All payments for fees must be made directly to the bank:

NATWEST Bank: Account Name: Bolton Islamic Girls School
 Account Number: **64908151**
 Sort code: **01 30 99**

- Please reference your daughter's name and year group
- Make sure you take a picture of the receipt and send a picture to the school mobile number.

I apologise for this very long letter. Well done for getting to the end! I hope you get a sense of all the hard work that has gone on to make BIGS as safe as possible. We are thrilled to have your daughters back next week. I am sure we all agree that our daughters have been out of the school building too long and need to get back into the classroom where they can be supported by their teachers. We are all going to be working tirelessly to get their learning back on track. We are grateful and continue to need your support to keep everyone safe.

Please remember us in your Duas.

Kind Regards
Zakia Maqbool
Dr Zakia Maqbool
Head Teacher

Believe - Achieve - Succeed
BOLTON ISLAMIC GIRLS SCHOOL
Weston House, Weston Street, Bolton, BL3 2AW
☎01204 771 570 ✉info@boltonislamicgirlsschool.org.uk
www.boltonislamicgirlsschool.org.uk