



# Downs View

Executive Headteacher: Vanessa Hickey

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23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Transition Back to Downs View from 1st March

I hope you managed to have a restful break and are continuing to keep safe and well. Now that the infection rate in our area has decreased and following the government announcement yesterday, I am writing to outline the plans for your child's transition back to Downs View.

From week commencing Monday 1st March all pupils will be offered the opportunity to attend for two days. This will either be Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday. Your head of site will contact you to let you know what you are being offered. If you are a key worker or have been attending for more days previously then these days will remain the same next week.

From the following week (week commencing Monday 8th March) all pupils will be able to attend school/college full time. If you are not intending to send your child back to school/college at this time, please email either myself or your Head of Site. This will enable us to arrange staffing appropriately. For some individual pupils we will be putting in place a more phased return to school to support them. For these pupils their class teacher will be in touch to discuss this with you.

From the 8<sup>th</sup> March there will not be a home learning offer as education will be delivered on-site. For the small number of extremely clinically vulnerable pupils that are still shielding then we will be in touch about individual learning offers.

We will be continuing with the class bubble system for our pupils and staff. Please be aware that at times it may still be necessary to send class groups home or ask them to isolate if a member of the group becomes ill with Covid symptoms or if we have staffing issues. To reduce the risk to pupils we will limit staff moving between groups.

So that we can ensure that all risks on site are minimised we will be continuing to follow the school/college risk assessment when all pupils have returned and although the majority of staff have now been vaccinated we still need to continue to follow the government guidelines around social distancing and respiratory hygiene for the time being.

I appreciate how difficult it has been for all of our families and therefore want to ensure that the transition back to school supports all pupils' well-being and enables them to feel safe and ready to learn. In making the decisions about the transition back to school there are a number of factors that have been considered. I want to share these with you so that you understand how we will be supporting your child.

- Many pupils have been out of school for a while and for most of this time they will have been at home with family members. They will need time to adapt to being part of a group and re-establish relationships with other pupils and staff. For some pupils this could be overwhelming so we need to ensure that we have space and capacity to support them.



- We will focus on settling pupils back into school and supporting their mental health and well-being. There will be a gradual increase in social interactions and demands as we feel if this is too sudden it could lead to an increase in challenging behaviour.
- For some pupils this will be their first time at the Woodingdean site following the move from Hollingdean so next week we will be able to introduce them to the site.

We will not currently be carrying out lateral flow tests on your child/children so it will be really important that you remain vigilant around hygiene and it is still the case that if you, your child or anyone in your household has any of the Covid-19 symptoms that you must not send your child into school/college.

A reminder of the emails for the Heads of Site are as follows:

**Downs View Woodingdean**

Bea Freeborn - [beatrizfreeborn@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:beatrizfreeborn@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

Jackie Hutchings – [jackiehutchings@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:jackiehutchings@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

**Downs View Link College**

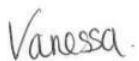
Juliet Hudson - [juliethudson@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:juliethudson@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

**Downs View Life Skills College**

Raul Ortiz – [raulortiz@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:raulortiz@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

If you have any other queries please do contact us. We are really looking forward to having all of the pupils back at school and college. I want to thank you for all the support this term. I really hope that with the success of the vaccine programme and the ongoing vigilance of everyone we can slowly start to return to normal.

Best wishes,



Vanessa Hickey  
Executive Headteacher