



# Blatchington Mill School

Involvement, Achievement & Care

[www.blatchingtonmill.org.uk](http://www.blatchingtonmill.org.uk)

Dear Blatch families,

Thank you for continuing to support our students to manage the changes to their days. We have been really impressed with how well they are adapting to their new routines, both onsite and at home. It was lovely to be able to welcome back our Year 7s onsite today.

A reminder that tomorrow our Year 10s and 11 start at 8.50am and our Year 7s start at 10.50. Students should arrive at school a maximum of 10 mins before their lesson starts and **all students will need to bring a packed lunch with them, remembering that we are a nut free school.** Supermarket vouchers have been issued for families who are eligible for free school meals.

Our most important priority through this situation is to ensure that every member of our school community is kept safe. Therefore, we hope that everyone will recognise and understand that the timeframe for when we can have all of our students back onsite together is out of our control. We have to follow the necessary safety procedures before different parts of the site can be used and these are dependent on professionals, like structural engineers and electricians, completing their work in the affected areas.

The specific site of the fire is relatively small - in the medium term we expect this to mean that our Design and Food rooms and some of our toilets and PE spaces are inaccessible. Once these are the only areas needing work on them, we expect to be able to bring all our students back onsite at the same time and to re-room our Design, Food and PE classes as needed.

In the short term however we are not able to use the East Wing of our school because it hasn't been deemed safe to do so and it doesn't currently have power, heating or water. Once structural engineers are able to deem the fire site accessible to contractors we will be able to clear the



debris and then have electricians check our electrics. Therefore until we are able to restore the amenities to most of the East Wing we cannot use it.

We don't have a specific timeframe for how long this will take but we are working closely with the local authority to expedite each phase. We will be ready to welcome all students back onsite once we are given the go ahead to use most of the East Wing.

In the meantime we are planning a week at a time so that we can keep both our staff and families as informed as possible about what each day will look like.

It is also critical to us that our students are able to continue learning effectively and still feel very much part of 'Team Blatch'. Therefore for next week we will be bringing our Year 8s and 9s back into the school site for part of the week so that they're able to be taught face to face and have social times with their friends.

We will continue to prioritise our Year 11s being onsite every day because of the proximity to their upcoming GCSE exams. We have also designed the week around our Year 10s accessing their core lessons onsite and our ability to manage multiple numbers of PE lessons with significantly reduced facilities. **Here is the learning provision at Blatch for the week of 29th January, 2024:**

Year	Face to Face at School	Remote Learning at Home
11	Monday - Friday 8:50 - 3:00	
10	Tuesday - Thursday 8:50 - 3:00	Monday Friday
9	Monday 9:40 - 3:00 Thursday 8:50 - 3:00 Friday 8:50 - 3:00	Tuesday Wednesday



<b>8</b>	Monday <b>8:45 - 3:00</b> Tuesday <b>8:50 - 3:00</b>	Wednesday Thursday Friday
<b>7</b>	Wednesday <b>8:50 - 3:00</b> Friday <b>8:50 - 3:00</b>	Monday Tuesday Thursday

There will be a special assembly at **8:45 am on Monday for Year 8, and one for Year 9 at 9:40 am on Monday**, to welcome them back to the school.

The other logistics that we have had to take into consideration include the number of students we can accommodate safely in a much smaller school site, including narrow corridors, how many toilets we have available (we will have some extra mobile toilets on site asap) and the challenge of needing teaching staff both to be teaching their classes in school and remotely from home (we don't have enough space for them all to be able to teach remotely onsite).

We know that this is far from an ideal situation for everyone in our school community but we hope that by keeping everyone informed that this will support our students to have the best experience possible in the circumstances.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support.

Best wishes,

Ms Claydon.

Kate Claydon

(I use the pronouns she/her/hers)

**Headteacher**

**Blatchington Mill School**

