



7 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

This has certainly been an eventful and busy week in the world of education and I'm sure you have also found this week not to be without challenges. As a school we have worked hard to take on board and act on the constant stream of updates coming through from the DFE and we have already communicated some key information to certain year groups.

Below is an attempt to highlight what support is available to you and also to clarify the current position on a number of areas, as things have been changing quite rapidly. In some cases the guidance is still pending so there is still ambiguity around some elements of provision announced but we will update as soon as we can.

Free School Meals

The Government has announced its intention to continue the provision of FSM during the lockdown period. At this time there is no government system in place but we plan to ensure that no child goes hungry and hope to have vouchers in place by the end of the week.

Anyone encountering difficulties or with queries please contact hsmart@brookvalegroby.com.

Critical Workers

The DFE has updated its guidance on critical workers and access to on site provision, this can be found below:

[DFE Guidance](#)

The LA has made it very clear that this provision must be used as a last resort, especially given the high transmission rates in the county. We plan to operate a tiered approach to ensure that we can maintain high quality remote provision and operate a safe provision on site. Our approach is explained below:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zv4-VSMELVvyLxwJBF3Mfs1DXy2TszDHPzNA08h7Sj4/edit?usp=sharing>

We have already asked parents to identify if they require a place via the form below, if this has not been done already the form can be found below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Nith03nx-IX6CDCM-vBt3Volh7LfGRGfl-7pDPggA_0/edit

Government Devices

To support home learning the government has announced that it will provide schools with digital devices for those most in need. As a school we have been granted 65 in total and have over 215 students identified as pupil premium. So far we have received approximately 25 devices which have been distributed. The delivery this week of 40 devices had to be sent back as they didn't work. As soon as these arrive we will distribute accordingly.

Data Allowances

The government has acknowledged that many students are using mobile devices to access online learning and as such they are using costly data bundles. In partnership with mobile providers they are now offering data boosts to students to support in accessing this provision. The guidance can be found below:

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>

To help access this support please complete the form below and we will follow up accordingly.

<https://forms.gle/J6mWuo6DWw7THq9b9>

BGLC Google Suite Award

We want to ensure that students have meaningful enrichment activities at this time alongside their timetabled remote provision. To this end we are launching the GSuite Award for all students to work towards.

The Video below highlights what this will entail:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KOWiAXjd1n3DkUq_tNOX_of7xM1nHq-j/view?ts=5ff47de7

Challenge week / Quiz

As part of our enrichment programme, we will be setting a 'Brookvale Groby Challenge of the Week'. Students will be able to take part in a challenge with (or competing against!) their family and we will also be asking staff to get involved. Further details will be shared with students next week but it would be great if you could take part with your child and share any successes with us. We will also be holding a weekly quiz, on a Friday at 2pm, for the whole community as a means of keeping connected, please feel free to join in. Your child will receive a live stream link each week for you to join in live. Alternatively, it will be recorded for you to play at a different time.

Assemblies

We will run assemblies each week as normal and these will be during form time, for this reason it is really important students engage in this element of their timetable. This week's is below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17MLPGAkxzziPLAD-GQYQ3N3XlzOLHT/view?usp=sharing>

Google Support for Parents

The link below has a host of materials that should support parents in how Google Classrooms and the GSuite package works. This should enable you as parents to support your child more effectively at this time.

<https://brookvalegroby.com/google-classrooms-for-parents/>

Remote Learning

The Sway below provides student and parents with some top tips for how to make remote learning more successful and effective:

<https://sway.office.com/06vDqZilwC9GYX0o>

Other Methods of Accessing Remote Provision

The flyer below explains clearly how you can access Google Classrooms via very popular games consoles such as Xbox /Playstation.

HOW TO ACCESS GOGGLE CLASSROOM FROM AN XBOX AND PS4



1. Turn on PS4
2. Use your controller to scroll to the far right of the bar with games to *Library*
3. Select *Library* application
4. Within the library use the search bar to type in *Internet*
5. Select the *Internet Browser* app
6. Start Internet Browser and press the triangle button on the controller to search
7. Once on the internet, type in the search box *Google Classroom* and select the first link that comes up:
Classroom: manage teaching and learning Google for Education - link below'
<https://edu.google.com/products/classroom>
8. Select *Go to Classroom*. Then log in using student email and password.



1. Go to Home Menu
2. Select *My Games and Apps*
3. Scroll down to *Apps*
4. Go to *Microsoft Edge* application
5. Type in a search for *Google Classroom*
6. Select *Go to Classroom*
7. You will need to log in using your student email address and password.



Mass testing

As you will know we had been planning to implement mass testing for all students on their return. Staff have undergone the necessary training and we have set up our testing area and plan to run our 1st trial this Friday with staff.

From next week we will be offering testing for all students and staff on site as an additional safety measure. We will send additional information about this process very shortly.

I would like to say a sincere thank you to all our community members who responded to our call for volunteers. I was massively touched by the number of you who offered your support at this difficult time.

When students return we will need volunteers to support this process so if you haven't already please feel free to become involved by completing the form below:

<https://forms.gle/pQXE6Kx1TRT2jYFB7>

Post 16

Our Post 16 Application deadline has been extended to 15th January 2021. We would like to start our interview process at the beginning of February as we are keen to meet you all and find out more about you. We would like to receive your applications through the PS16 online application system as close to our deadline date as possible. If you need any help with your application then please speak to your tutor.

On receipt of your application we will acknowledge it with you through PS16 and once we have established an interview time for you will write to you with the details. The interviews will be held through Google Meet and we really look forward to meeting you very soon.

Exams Guidance Plan

On Monday the government announced that A-Level and GCSE exams would not go ahead in the summer. They have since released the following:

This is all the information we have at this stage. However we are already working with other schools and some national organisations with a view to offering our own terminal examinations if safe to do so. We feel it vital that students have a sense of purpose and hope at this difficult time and are given the experience they have prepared for. It will also be vital to prepare them for P16 or University and potentially provide some of the evidence towards establishing grades to be awarded. We will clarify these plans in due course.

I need to make it very clear that the work that is produced now in all years but especially Yr 11 and 13 remotely, will be vital in informing our judgements. It is therefore critical students continue to engage with what has been provided and do their best at this challenging time.

We will do all we can to support you and your children at this time and I hope the information contained within this letter has been of some use. If your child is having any difficulty please contact the relevant Head of Year who will make sure your concern is directed to the right person:

Yr 7 Tina Rumming - trumming@brookvalegroby.com
Yr 8 Donna Bee - dbee@brookvalegroby.com
Yr 9 Joe Rumming - jrumming@brookvalegroby.com
Yr 10 Jo Clarke - jclarke@brookvalegroby.com
Yr 11 Jayne Jordan - jjordan@brookvalegroby.com
P16 Michelle Cheadle - mcheadle@brookvalegroby.com

In the meantime given all the lovely feedback we have had please feel free to add your comments to OFSTED Parent View to show your support:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=/give-your-views>

Yours sincerely



W Teece
Headteacher