

3rd April 2020

Loop

Weekly Newsletter for Parents & Students

Welcome

Since I last wrote to you, the impact of coronavirus on our daily lives has become even greater. I deeply appreciate the encouragement you have provided for your child in supporting their learning at home the best you can, whilst no doubt facing your own work pressures or wider family responsibilities.

Whilst we await further news from the Government, Bosworth Academy will remain closed to the majority of pupils until further notice. We have remained open for only a small number of children of critical workers and vulnerable children where parents have no other option for childcare.

Having now completed two weeks of our children learning away from school it is a good time to share some key pieces of news with you all. We have recently asked our students and staff to complete an online google questionnaire to collate views about the home learning we have been setting. Having looked at the responses of the first 120 students it seems we are getting a lot right but there is still some good scope for improvements.

Over Easter we will use this feedback to continually improve this new way of working. A parental questionnaire will be launched after Easter - so watch this space!



We will continue to do everything we can to support you and your child during this challenging period, and are committed to keeping you updated as things develop. I'd like to share my appreciation for the heroic efforts of NHS staff, and all of our other key workers (many of which are you), doing an amazing job in such difficult circumstances.

I wish you and your family good health, and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,
Simon Brown,
Head of School

Free School Meals

The national Free School Meal voucher scheme has been launched by the Government. There are a few glitches in the system but we hope that this will become a more reliable way of providing vouchers to parents during our closure. We have purchased a supply of Coop vouchers to cover last week for those parents who were unable to collect a meal. When these vouchers arrive in school we will be posting them out to you. Over the coming weeks we will be looking at a range of options to support parents and we will be back in touch again soon.



Easter Home Learning

Over the two week Easter break students will only be set homework (as they usually would at this time of year), rather than two weeks of home learning. Teachers will set this work now - the deadline for submission will be at the end of the two week period. Work will vary depending on your child's year group and may involve developing revision skills or carrying out a project. Watch 'Show My Homework' for specific details.

What will happen with exams?

The exam regulator, Ofqual, provided further information today about how grades will be determined; the school is asked to submit the grade they believe a student was most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned. We will be working towards achieving this ready for June when we submit the grades to the exam board. All schools have been instructed to keep these grades confidential. Please do not ask teachers to share these grades as they cannot.

After Easter, Year 11 and 13 work set by teacher will be moving onto either transition projects which will benefit their chosen subject/area after GCSE or project based learning. This will enable all students to continue to develop their study skills and ensure their ability to learn is not hindered due to the long period away from normal schooling. In addition to benefiting further study, it is crucial that these year groups don't lose their good study habits in case they wish to take an exam in a specific subject in Autumn, as Ofqual announced today. Please see website for further details.



Support for children

We recognise that children and especially our young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and their parents and carers are facing numerous challenges as a result of schools being closed. Our SENDCO, Mrs Croucher has shared some useful support materials that can be found on our facebook page.

If you are meeting resistance when trying to complete school work, you could try to opt for less formal means of education and focus on social/ emotional targets and areas for development that they might not associate with 'school' in the same way. Activities can include things like: playing board games (taking turns/ losing and winning), watching TV shows and films and pausing to discuss/ unpick characters feelings and why they are behaving in a certain way, discussion around emotions- making faces in mirrors to show how it looks on their face, playdough faces to show emotions, reading books and discussing character emotions, understanding their strengths/ what people admire about them- make a presentation to share. The list is endless really and these are the things that potentially could be of great benefit! It might be worth encouraging your child to experience some life skills like cooking, gardening, learning a musical instrument if they feel more comfortable doing this to start.



How do I support Home Learning

Working Safely Online

Whilst our children are working remotely and are frequently online, it is important that they work safely. There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

[Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)

[Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)

[Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)

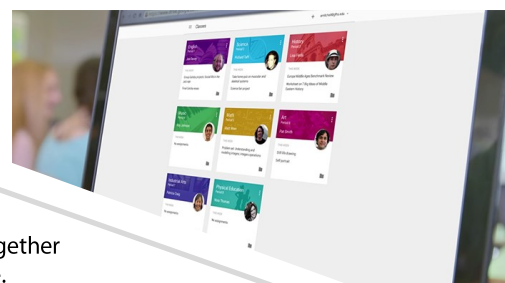
[LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)

[Net-aware](#) (support for parents and careers from the NSPCC)

This is an uncertain and unpredictable situation, and working from home is very different to school so 'stress' and anxiety are normal. As we find ourselves in unique times for learning, one thing children adapt well to is routine. Ensuring they have some normality in their new study space will bring your child much needed comfort as they navigate through the challenges of learning from home.

We have not stuck to a five period day when setting work to allow our students more flexibility in their approach to tackling learning. Replicating a school day is not recommended - though having a plan and a predictable routine for the day can be very reassuring. It is often a good idea to involve your son/daughter in creating this routine, rather than feeling that it is being imposed. Encourage children to develop independence by referring to their own plan themselves. If sticking to the plan causes a lot of friction and conflict then 'free flow' may work better for you. This allows you as parents and carers to best determine how to support your child's needs whilst managing your own pressures.

Our teachers are expecting their students to try their very best at what has been set, but they do understand that some learning may be challenging. Do offer guidance and support if you can, and encourage your child to request some additional tips or support from their teacher if required. All of us can only look to do the best that we possibly can.



Finally...

This has been quite an incredible term. It certainly doesn't feel like the last day of term. This Easter break will feel very different as you look to spend time safely with your family, socially distanced. On behalf of Bosworth Academy we'd like to thank you all for your hard work, collaboration and support during these challenging times. We thought we'd share a hopefully uplifting video that our staff had put together before the times of social distancing. Look out for this video on our website 'news' page.

Stay safe. Mr Brown, Head of School



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