



BOSWORTH ACADEMY
TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

Welcome

18th September 2020

in the loop

Weekly Newsletter for Parents & Students

We began with a challenging start to our week. During Monday morning we received notice of three children testing positive for coronavirus over the weekend. As has been widely reported in the national press, the wait for tests and the correspondence with Public Health England to receive advice about our required actions were both slow. What was clear is that direct contacts of positive cases should be asked to isolate for 14 days, rather than whole year groups, (unless in the future we are advised otherwise). I have corresponded closely with my Leadership Union in writing to the Prime Minister outlining the problem and calling for priority testing of symptomatic staff and students as a matter of national urgency, along with other key workers. It is of course deeply upsetting to have to send children home to isolate for 14 days, especially following a long period of having to work from home previously. I thank all parents and carers involved for your understanding and support. For these reasons it is vital that we work closely as a community to reduce the chance of transmission.

It is clear that with cases rising nationally, and in particular areas of concern in our part of the county and city, all parents and students should remain vigilant. From the reports I have received from the Local Authority it is clear that there are just more cases around in our community. Our in-school tracing as well as that by NHS Test and Trace shows that current cases are not likely to be from in-school transmission.

All of us need to be responsible for our actions and ensure our children act responsibly too if we are to reduce positive cases and the spreading of the virus. We must not gather in a group of more than six, we should socially distance as much as possible, wear face coverings and maintain high levels of hygiene, particularly regular handwashing. Let's model this for all to see.

With the glorious September sunshine it has been lovely to see students enjoying their breaks and lunches in the fresh air as well as taking some lessons out of the classroom. Our area around the pond served as a fantastic chalk canvas for circle theorems and trigonometry for Mathematics, and the English Team taught Shakespeare outdoors and acted out scenes from various plays.



Mr. Brown, Head of School

Across the school, students have engaged brilliantly with learning and are committed to doing their very best. It is so important that this continues as I think it is clear that this will likely be a disruptive year for all of us. It doesn't look like coronavirus is going away soon. Whilst the scientists work hard to develop a vaccine it is vital that we educate our children, support their emotional wellbeing and offer them collaborative opportunities to truly shine, whilst of course maintaining an environment that mitigates risk. **Helen Keller** sums this up simply as, **"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much"**. Let's all work together to get through these challenging times.

**The greater the storm,
the brighter the rainbow!**



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A new start to the day

Due to our measures to mitigate risk, we have changed our lesson times to allow for a calm and safe start to the day. As soon as students arrive they report to their registration room where their tutor supervises them. Registration doesn't officially start until 8:45 but many are arriving from 8:20 onwards. This prevents students from different bubbles mixing.

It has been a real pleasure to walk around the school in the morning seeing students using the morning as an opportunity to complete some homework, talk with their tutor about any issues they might be having, and reading up on any new learning which is coming up.

Talking with students it is really clear that they are happy to be back at school and that they really value the calm starts to the day. Their behaviour has been exemplary and really sets the tone for the rest of the day - so on behalf of all the staff at Bosworth Academy, a big thank you for helping create a wonderful atmosphere for us to work in alongside you.

Mr. Dolinski, Assistant Head of School

Dance and Drama in the age of Covid

Here at Bosworth we have not let a little thing like a global pandemic stop our students from dancing and expressing themselves! Grids have been marked out in both the hall and drama studio to ensure each student remains 2 metres apart when dancing or acting. It also helps that these are big spaces with plenty of ventilation. After lockdown it is great to see students being both active and working together - even if it is in a socially distanced way.

Mr. Claricoates, Assistant Head of School



Meet the Tutor Evening

The first opportunity for parents/carers to speak to tutors for students in Year 12 will take place on Thursday 8th October 2020, 4pm-7pm. This will be a chance to discuss initial attitude to learning across all curriculum areas as well as how students have settled into the school.

Appointments with tutors will be 6 minutes and can be made through the Weduc booking system from 7pm on Thursday 1st October.

Due to Coronavirus, the **meetings this year will be virtual with tutors**, who will contact parents/carers by phone using the primary contact number supplied on the pupil admission form.

For students in year 7 a short film about how Year Seven have settled in will be shared with parents and tutors will then follow up with an email and phone call if required.

Mrs. Holdback, Assistant Head of School

Face masks including parents

In school our students have acted responsibly as well as brilliantly to wearing face masks on corridors.

Outdoors we have asked that if students cannot maintain a 2m+ social distance from friends then they should also be worn. We are having to remind some students about this. By not wearing a face mask or social distancing they are putting themselves in a position of risk and are more likely to be asked to isolate for 14 days if a close contact tests positive. Please reinforce our expected behaviours through a conversation with your child.

With infection rates continuing to rise across the county, the Director of Public Health and the Director of Children and Family Services have stated that parents coming onto school sites to drop off or collect children should wear a face covering. At Bosworth we don't tend to get large gatherings of parents at our gates like it is the case at Primary Schools but it is important that this advice is followed if you are entering our school site or getting out of your car.

Mr. Brown, Headteacher



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Parents Evenings Update

With the 'rule of six' now in place across the country we are evaluating our approach to large events such as Parents Evenings and Open Evenings. With most evenings involving families attending from over 350 students we believe it is not in the safe interests of our community to 'gather' so many people together.

We will of course share details of how we will keep in touch with parents and carers about their child's progress. Look out for further details on our website or by letter in the coming weeks.

Mr. Brown, Headteacher

New national 'Prevent' support

The national Prevent strategy aims to counter terrorism by stopping people becoming radicalised. It is simply expressed as the need to "prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". Prevent work with schools and other sectors to step in early. During the tough times of lockdown your kids and teens may be spending many hours a day scrolling through social media and sometimes may come across posts or comments which are promoting terrorism. Whilst you may think your kids are safe online there are hundreds of posts that may force your kids into feeling a certain way, especially if they are in a bad state of mind or are currently going through a tough mental health episode. They could be more easily persuaded to join a group or be pressured into joining an extremist group.

In late September, a new online safeguarding 'hub' will be launched, encouraging family and friends to 'act early' against radicalisation. There is also a 'prevent.eastmidlands' Instagram that can offer help.

The website, which has been tested with those who have seen loved ones become radicalised, will make it easier for members of the public to find advice and information on the signs to spot, case studies, the referral process and the police's role in safeguarding.

A 'soft' launch is planned to enable the phasing out of the existing website Let's Talk About It. Two short films, featuring Prevent officers explaining their work and talking through the referral process, will follow this.

Lewis, year 12 student (NCS) & East Midlands Police Newsletter

Covid-19 and Staying Safe

Parents and carers must **carefully follow procedures around COVID-19**.

If your **child develops coronavirus symptoms** in school we will contact parents so you can immediately pick them up. **You must get your child tested as soon as possible and inform us of a positive result.**

This allows us to begin our own track and trace system in school to identify close contacts.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 however mild, you must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started. Go to testing website link to arrange a test. **You must not send children in your household to school** - please call the school to inform us. Members of the household are required to self-isolate for 14 days unless a negative test result is received and then you can end isolation. Contact attendance@bosworthacademy.org.uk with any queries.

Please follow this advice - it is vital to ensure that we keep our communities safe and avoid school having to send home many students to self-isolate for 14 days if they have been in close contact with someone who has a positive test result.

Mr. Brown, Headteacher



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Transforming Vocabulary

New this year for all year 7 and 8 students, we are launching 'Bedrock Vocabulary'. This is an award winning online programme that teaches tier 2 vocabulary, the words which students regularly might come across in textbooks, lessons or exams in all subjects. It adapts to the student as they go, and has built in rewards. It complements 'Accelerated Reader', our reading programme, which has engaging quizzes and activities to encourage independent reading, and to help hone students' reading skills.

How many of the words in the list on the left do you think the average year 7 or 8 will already know?

By working through the interactive digital lessons, they can learn them all, and hundreds more! Students will need to do a 20 mins Bedrock quiz every week as part of their English homework, plus a second quiz each week in school. Year 7 and 8 parents will be sent a letter



with further details, and a login so they can track their child's progress. As ever, parental encouragement will make all the difference in helping your child to establish a good routine. Your support is invaluable.

Thank You from *The Literacy Team*

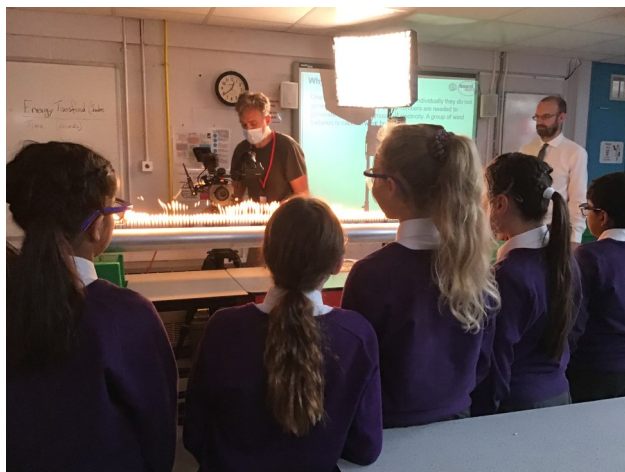


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Open Evening 2020

Unable to run our normal Open Evening experience on the 24th September, the Academy is in the process of developing a virtual experience that will include a new Academy Video, Live Q and A opportunities; subject information and virtual tours. More information about this will appear on our website.

We do encourage families and students to talk about their experiences of Bosworth Academy with friends and family within their community. The feedback we get from our Open Evenings often highlights the passion and enthusiasm of staff but most importantly how happy the students are and the way they talk so positively about the school. Students can still do this in their communities.



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