

Welcome

These certainly are strange times! I recall this exact time last year - talking to my wonderful year 11 Chemistry class about deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). I shared that DNA is a molecule essential for life, encoding genetic instructions for the development and functioning of living organisms and viruses. To make this relevant to current affairs I talked to them about a newly discovered virus, SARS-CoV-2, and its possible origin from bat eating snakes in China. None of us knew at that time that this new virus that causes COVID-19 would lead to such a dreadful pandemic that has affected all of us, and our way of living. Roll on a year and we now have school staff trained in seven different roles to deliver lateral flow coronavirus testing in our school gym, now converted to a test site. My Science lessons are now taught from my office using a laptop, webcam, visualiser, Pear Deck and Google Meet breakout rooms to my new year 11 class sitting at home in their living room or kitchen. It has been a remarkable transformation for all of us in a year.

With only nine days of working in such a different way to the first lockdown I must commend all of our students, staff and you as parents and carers for how amazingly well you have adapted. I am so proud of our teaching staff who have adapted to teaching a majority of their lessons remotely 'live', and our support staff for enabling this. This change has been really challenging; involving new planning, resourcing, and a different pedagogical approach. Our aim remains to keep the key elements of effective teaching present – for example clear explanations, scaffolding and feedback which research states is more important than how or when they are provided. The research also states that the combination of technology and collaborative tools (such as google slides and docs) with face to face interaction has a large positive impact on learning. Our aim at Bosworth Academy is to ensure we have those important elements in place so that our students are not disadvantaged through this challenging period.

Our students too have been simply incredible. Attendance, and more importantly full engagement in lessons has been excellent. With an average of 95% (not accounting for illness) present in 'live' lessons we thank parents for supporting their child and getting them out of bed and to their tutor period for 8.40am. We have already surveyed students for feedback to look at how we can improve their learning experience and will soon share a feedback form with parents and carers too. We will continue to adjust our approach next week, building in more independent learning activities during lessons (away from the screen), as well as building in a short time between lessons. I would also like to encourage parents to talk to your child about working in a communal area of the home wherever possible (wearing headphones), so that learning is more visible, and preferably not in bedrooms, unless there is a desk space there.

Finally as cases of coronavirus increase around our region, please reinforce with your child the importance of continuing to follow government guidance to stay at home, only leaving for those essential reasons. Let's conclude by recognising how all of us are transforming the way we live and work, and in particular the care profession. As the world's most famous nurse Florence Nightingale, said, **"I attribute my success to this; I never gave or took an excuse."** It's too easy during these strange times to make excuses when we encounter difficulties and give up, let's all face those new encounters, like remote learning bravely, and we too can all achieve great things.



Stay safe,
Mr. Brown, Headteacher

in the loop

15th January 2021

Weekly Newsletter for Parents & Students



Great things
are done by a
series of small
things brought
together.
Van Gogh



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Rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in school

We have now received lateral flow device test kits in school, set up our testing centre, trained staff and have started coronavirus testing! Rapid testing helps identify those asymptomatic cases that might otherwise not be detected, causing the virus to spread further. Routine testing at Bosworth Academy will give all of our students and staff the reassurance that the school is a safe environment for them to work and study. Ideally we would like to have everyone in school tested regularly for the peace of mind of everyone at Bosworth.



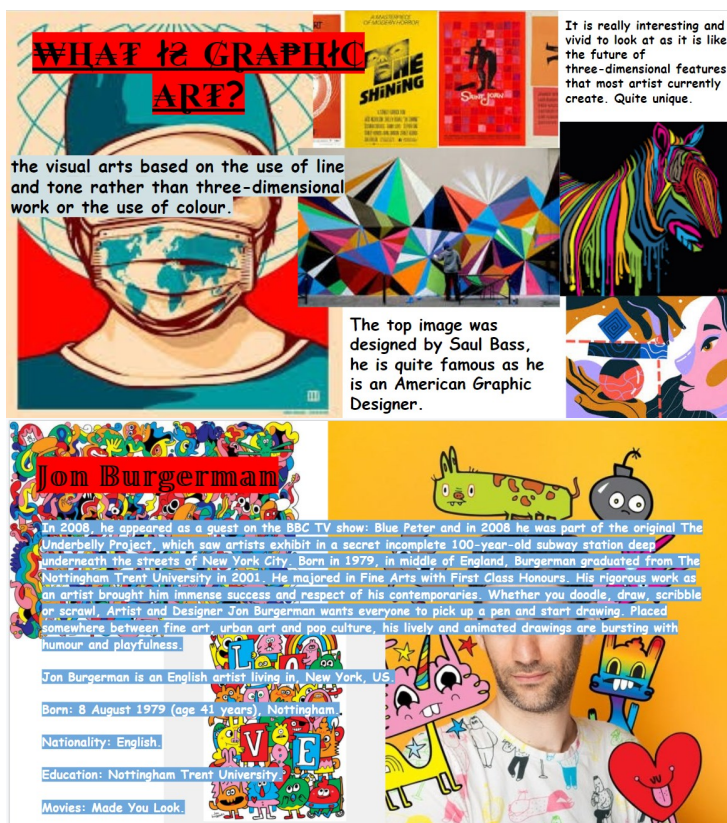
The testing process is smooth and should have minimal impact on teaching and learning, so if your child is currently in school we would really like them to be tested regularly. We will be testing vulnerable children and children of critical workers who are in school (two tests, three to five days apart) with weekly testing of staff who are on site. As long as their results are negative, they will be able to continue to access school as usual. If your child is in school please ensure that you have completed and returned the consent form which has been sent to you to enable them to be tested.

Mrs Holdback, Assistant Head

Beautiful Work Gallery

Our first winner of the beautiful work prize is Dhilan in year 8 Graphic Design. His work obviously demonstrates one of our 6Cs - namely creativity. A £10 voucher is on its way Dhilan - very well done! There are plenty more prizes to be had though folks so keep doing great work in your lessons and you could be next!

Mr. Claricoates, Assistant Head



Physical Activity during lockdown

As we are now one working week into the new lockdown restrictions I hope that people are beginning to get to grips with the whole situation. As many students, staff and parents are now working from home I wanted to share what we are offering as part of our core PE plan and encourage all to get involved. The nature of working from home vastly reduces how much we move about between lessons and tasks so please watch this video to see why we are doing what we are doing and hopefully inspire you to get active each day. For a daily plan you can also see the HBSSPAN's activity planner for ideas.

[Click here for video link](#)

Mr Grest, Curriculum Leader; Physical Education



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Bosworth Bake Off Christmas Special

Following the huge success of the Bosworth Bake Off, during Lockdown 1, we decided to run a one off "Christmas Special" over the Christmas holidays. The competition was open to students in all year groups, staff and families within our Bosworth community. The entry level was really high with lots of Gingerbread creations and Chocolate Yule Logs! The standard of decoration skills was very impressive. It was great to see so many entries from families, not just individual students. There will be other Bosworth Bake Off Season Specials coming up, so keep an eye out for them. All the winners will receive house points for their efforts. Well done everybody that entered.

Keep baking and stay safe. Link to the winners Gallery.....
[Bosworth Bake Off!! Winners Gallery!! Christmas Special!!](#)

Mrs Brockhouse, Curriculum Leader ADT



Best presented dish - Winner -

Dylan Mistry, Year 8 with his Mum and 10 year old sister Alesha, made Winter Wonderland Cookies.

KS4 - Winner -
Roxanne Mutton, Year 9, along with her Mum, Dad and 10 year old sister, made a Gingerbread Street. They decorated a house each!



Bosworth Star Baker -
Lilia Cartledge-Splitt, Year 8, made these beautiful Fondant Fancy presents.

What is happening with GCSE and A Levels?

Year 11, 12 and 13 engagement in lessons over the last fortnight has been fantastic with superb work submitted across all subjects. Whilst we do not yet know what we will be asked to use to form the Centre/Teacher Assessed Grade, we do know that all the work students are continuing to complete will stand them in good stead.

At the moment we await further advice from Ofqual and the DfE about possible externally set 'mini internal assessments' that years 11, 12 and 13 may have to complete when they are back in school. You may have read in the news that the government and exam regulator Ofqual are currently consulting on what the teacher assessment scheme will look like; however, nothing is yet in place and schools have not received any guidance at all about this. On Wednesday evening Mr Williamson said: "A breadth of evidence should inform teachers' judgments, and the provision of training and guidance will support teachers to reach their assessment of a student's deserved grade." Of course, all of this also depends on when students are allowed to return to school.

Whilst this lack of certainty must be a worry for both parents and students, we ask that all year groups continue to join their lessons and continue to develop their knowledge in each subject as this will certainly be beneficial for all when they return to school. We will, of course, update both students and parents when we know anything further.

Miss Baxter, Deputy Head



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series of small things brought together.
Van Gogh

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Critical Worker Places

This week schools have been written to by the Strategic Coordination Group for COVID and winter response, which includes the Chief Constable for Leicestershire Police.

As partners across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, they are managing the local response to the COVID pandemic. Over the last week they have considered the support that schools need to ensure their continued safe operation both in buildings and remotely. This work has been carried out by our Education Cell which represents the children's services leads for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland as well as schools, colleges and universities. A key risk has been that there are too many requests for places in schools, particularly primaries and that the eligibility criteria remains unprioritised. If the school becomes unsafe due to the number of critical workers requesting additional places then we will need to introduce a prioritised order. Presently we have not needed to implement this at Bosworth Academy but may need to in future weeks. If that is the case then we will write to parents.

Mr. Brown, Headteacher

Super Curriculum

Here at Bosworth Academy we strive to incorporate the 6 Cs within our teaching, both in and out of the classroom. Collaboration, citizenship, communication, critical thinking, creativity and character are the attributes we want our students to develop and improve throughout their time here at school. We recognise that not all learning takes place inside the classroom and with that in mind we have created a curriculum that will take our students' learning further. Each subject in school are working on creating a Super Curriculum that should inspire the students to want to know more and push themselves in an independent manner. These booklets that have been created include links to websites, suggested videos to watch, creative tasks to work on or engaging questions to get our students thinking. They also include a book and film list of suggested titles for the students to read and watch in order to develop their knowledge further. We want to inspire our students to come to their lessons with knowledge they can share and to feel empowered to ask questions and to try to find out their own answers.

This is a work in progress so each department is adding to the collection of stretch and challenge tasks over this half term.

Ms Mills, Leader of Stretch and Challenge

Fantastic Key Stage 4 Engagement

Well done Key Stage 4 on all of your amazing engagement so far in remote learning. We have really enjoyed teaching you and seeing you, even if it is mainly on a computer screen! Your teachers have been so impressed in your engagement so far. Remember to keep in touch with your class teachers and tutors if you need any additional help, or you have any issues or concerns. We are still here to help!

A message to our year 11s

I wanted to congratulate our year 11s on their courage resilience and determination this year. So many of your teachers have told me how hard you are working and how impressed they are with you. I know that lockdown 3.0 and the announcement that summer exams would not take place will have been a hard message to hear and I have spoken to a few students who have told me it has affected their motivation. This is entirely understandable as we are unclear about how you will be assessed and awarded your GCSE grades. However, please remember that your hard work and classwork will be recognised and they will contribute to your GCSE grade. Please use this thought to keep yourself motivated and engaged in your learning. You are all doing fantastic so please continue to do your best during these hard couple of months, Remember your tutor, Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year are here if you need support.

Mrs Harbour, Assistant Head KS4

Fun Stuff

The "Fun Stuff" ideas were well received during the first lockdown. Schoolwork is only part of a great education! It is important that we all keep active, get creative and flex that learning! We encourage students to also look after their well-being by engaging with some of the activities in the linked document. This document will be updated and added to regularly.

Link for [Fun Stuff is here.](#)

Mrs. Koncarevic, Director of Learning



Student Voice - We asked and our students said...

An overwhelming majority of our students - 82%, in fact - have told us that remote lessons are providing a positive learning experience for them, which is something teachers will be pleased to know. It is a real testament to the character, resilience and confidence of Bosworth students that they have been able to adapt and embrace this new way of learning, which is different to their experience in the Summer term, during the first lockdown. We must also thank those at home for your support in ensuring students are up and ready to learn every single day.

Where students weren't as positive, it was largely a result of wifi and connection issues, equipment failures and the recognition that *'it's not as good as being in school'*. Despite this, attendance in lessons has been extremely high, which means that our students are not missing out on valuable learning and will make a smooth and successful transition back into school as soon as we are allowed.

When students were asked if there were any subjects that were getting the learning 'just right', there was a mixture of responses praising a variety of subjects:

"Spanish...because they do live lessons from start to finish with some independent tasks. We then go through it as a class."

"Computing is quite good - Mr Dolinski has little "breakout rooms" so that we can either work in silence, work with others and discuss/help one another or get help from him."

"Physics - Mrs Coulson. She makes the lessons fun and engaging."

"English is like an actual lesson in school."

"Art tell us what to do first on google meet then we are allowed to leave and get on with it independently."

"Biology and Chemistry - it still feels like I'm in school in terms of the teaching quality and the resources we get."

"Maths - my teacher Helen Barrowcliffe has been really good. She uses Pear Deck at times, which has been good and then leaves us time to get on with the work independently for the last half."

"Charlotte Wilson in Geography is making the lessons interactive, which means that they are still similar to normal, making them the most enjoyable."

"Media because of class discussions."

"Sociology with Mrs G Wright - she always checks we understand and helps anyway she can."

"PE...we are told the instructions in the google meet and then come off the call to do the work. 5 minutes before the end of the lesson we went back onto the call."

"Business - using things such as interactive powerpoints and quizzes and setting independent work while also staying on the meet."

"I can't choose one. All of my subjects are quite good."

We are keen to hear parents' feedback; please can you complete the two minute survey here:
<https://forms.gle/AN3uiHASLFJF4fUw9>

What an amazing week for remote learning! What may have been initially viewed with some trepidation, has now become an approach that we have embraced and are on our way to mastering.

With staff feedback like this: 'over the last few days I have had so many engaging & successful lessons with the students responding brilliantly. I have tried pear deck, google meet break out rooms as well as quizziz. I cannot believe how much more confident I feel with delivering online lessons and feel that the student's are gaining so much from the face to face interactions'.

And parental feedback like this: 'Teacher provision has been excellent and extremely thorough. My son was very animated and enthusiastic as he explained what he had learned in his online lessons last night - this is down to the superb efforts of his teachers and the senior leaders at his school'...

We should feel very proud of ourselves as teachers, students and parents.

Thank you!

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Student Expectations

Teachers and students have been working really hard over the last two weeks and have enjoyed participating in online live lessons through Google Meet. Whilst the lessons haven't always gone to plan, we are confident that our provision is helping students get the best education possible during this national lockdown. What used to be 'unusual times' now very much seem to be the norm and we are continuing to evolve our practice to help students get the best possible outcomes.

Through staff and student feedback, we have simplified our approach to our expectations of students during live lessons. You can access these expectations by visiting our policy page on our school website or by [clicking here](#).













As we always do at Bosworth Academy, we will continue to review and improve our practice and work alongside our teachers, students and parents to secure the best outcomes for all.

Please do get in touch with us if you have any concerns or questions.

Mr Dolinski, Assistant Head of School

Expectations of students during live lessons

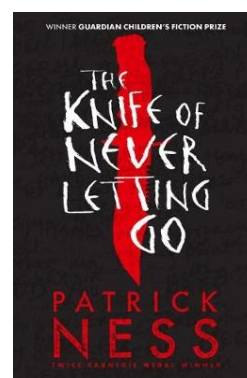
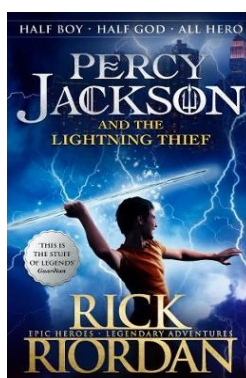
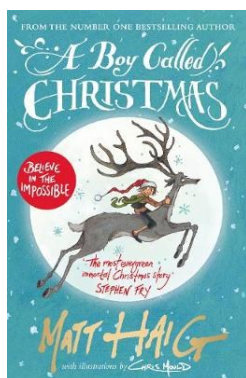
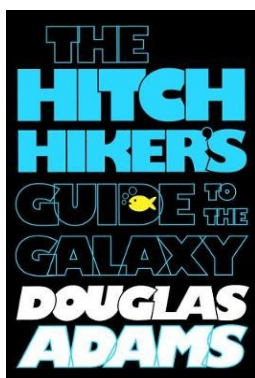
By joining a live lesson you and your parents/carers agree to the following expectations.

	Ensure you know what time the lessons start and arrive on time. Remain in the lesson for the entire time.		Follow the instructions from the teacher. Keep your speakers on and your microphone muted while the teacher is speaking. You must respond if your teacher calls your name.
	Ensure you are prepared for your lesson: - Appropriate workspace - Necessary books and equipment - Charged iPads		Keep your microphone muted unless answering a question or your name is called. Use the raise hand feature if you have a question.
	At the start of the lesson, have your webcam turned on so that your teachers can see you. Your teacher may not require you to have your webcam turned on for the entire lesson. Blur your background if you can or sit against a plain background if possible.		To allow lessons to start smoothly, test all your hardware is working. Check: - Your webcam and microphone are working correctly. - You are able to access the Google Classroom. - You can open the Google Meet links (you won't be able to join until your teacher does)
	It is useful to sit in a room where a parent or carer can check in with you every so often. To avoid disruption, keep your door open.		You can use the chat message facility to ask a question while the teacher is delivering their live lesson. They will pick this up when they are able to. Use appropriate language at all times.
	Dress appropriately. You don't need to wear a school uniform but you should be dressed in clothes appropriate for learning.		Normal classroom rules apply. Turn off your mobile phones to avoid distractions. Do not text friends during lessons. Your teacher may allow you to use your mobile in class for specific reasons.
	Only join live lessons you are invited to access. Do not use other people's accounts. If you are having difficulties logging in, contact ICTSupport@bosworthacademy.org.uk		Work just as hard as you would do in the classroom. The harder you work now the easier you will find it when we all return back to school.

Books to read before they hit your screens this year!



Some exciting books are being made into movies or TV shows this year. Take a look at the link below.



<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2020/december/2021-tv-shows-and-movies-the-childrens-books-to-read-before-they-hit-your-screens/>

Chaos walking series & Percy Jackson books are available as ebooks from our school library catalogue!

Mrs. Griffiths, Librarian

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Useful Tip

In homes where devices are being shared, remember that the PlayStation 4 and Xbox are another way for students to access the Google Classroom.



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.



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.

Head of Year Support

If you require support then please contact your child's tutor or their Head of Year:

Year 7 Mr. Mowbray

dmowbray@bosworthacademy.org.uk

Year 8 Mrs. Wake

vdebolster@bosworthacademy.org.uk

Year 9 Miss Green

bgreen1@bosworthacademy.org.uk

Year 10 Mr Blackmore

matthewb153@bosworthacademy.org.uk

Year 11 Ms Manning

jmanning@bosworthacademy.org.uk

Year 12 Dr Stephenson

chloes3@bosworthacademy.org.uk

Year 13 Dr Dover

mdover@bosworthacademy.org.uk

Technology Support

If your child has any IT issues around remote learning then they or you should email: ictsupport@bosworthacademy.org.uk for support.



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Van Gogh



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