

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Issue 7 Friday 26 June 2020

Headteacher Update:

I hope that these school updates find you and your families well.

- We have had another smooth and successful week meeting our Y10 and Y12 students in school with high attendance. We continue to review our risk assessment daily and I am pleased to report all measures that have been put in place have led to no significant concerns being raised.
- Our pastoral team have met with several students either face to face or online this week to offer bespoke and individual support. Although we are all benefitting from a relaxation to the lockdown restrictions, the prolonged closure of schools is taking its toll on young people and we want to offer as much welfare support we can when it is needed.
- Planning for the August results Days for our Y13 and Y11 students is currently taking place. We know that the unusual nature of these days this year may be causing increased anxieties for some of our students. Once we have the plans for the arrangements in place we will be updating parents and students before the end of this term to offer some clear guidance and details.
- Ms Holland and I met with the Key Stage 5 school council members in an online meeting this week. Again, we gained valuable feedback and information that will help us in our planning ahead to the curriculum and welfare support that will be needed when we return in September.
- You will see some updates below on the excellent achievements of some of our students through school closure as well as some of the more motivating and fun challenges they have been set.

I want to assure you again that senior leaders and staff continue to work extremely hard to provide the very best provision possible for our students as we continue our work outside of our usual setting.

With our continued best wishes to you and your families.

Deputy Headteachers' Teaching and Learning Update:

It is now the end of the second week that the Y10's and Y12's have attended school for their guidance and support in Business studies, Economics, Biology, Chemistry and Computing. Once again, we had an excellent attendance from both cohorts which I am sure was helped with the bright sunshine that came with them.

We continue with the home learning element of the curriculum and once again ask that the students continually look on the website to find out what has been set for them from the different subject areas.

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As part of the 'lockdown' process, departments have continually tried to think of creative ways to challenge and engage our students. An example of this is the History department who recently ran an essay competition for all key stages that challenged them to write an essay with the title;

"If 1066 is said to be the most important date in English history, what is the equivalent in another country?"

The essay was limited to 800 words and then the winner from each key stage was awarded a £25 Amazon voucher. The competition was keenly fought for with the overall winner coming from Y9 Bingham, and this student's essay has now been entered into a national History competition as a result – we wish him luck!

Clearly, we are proud of all our students, not simply the ones who win competitions, but of all their achievements great or small. In Geography for example, Mr Frost has been sending out 'Star Awards' via email to all those students who have been engaging on a regular basis. He is also hoping to develop this in the future, by sending out postcards to all the students who are up to date with their remote learning; evidently something for our Geographers to aim for!

Also, as a school we are currently capturing information from all teachers about which students have excelled in their remote learning and we will be sending out certificates to all those students who have been nominated in due course.

Deputy Headteachers' Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare Update

As students in Year 10 and 12 become accustomed to the routine of attending subject support sessions, we have noticed how relaxed they are and how much they are enjoying interacting with their friends and staff. Unfortunately, this has led to them becoming less conscious of maintaining social distancing and we will be reminding them of this over the next few days. If your child is attending school for subject sessions or as part of our keyworker hub, can you also remind them that these measures are in place to protect them and others.

In order to support our Year 7, 8 and 9 students as they continue in lockdown, we will be sending a well-being and welfare survey. This survey will be sent to every student within those year groups and the results will help us in our continued efforts to support your child's well-being and welfare. Please encourage your child to complete the survey and if you have any questions or welfare concerns, contact us at welfare@bluecoatschool.org.uk and one of the team will respond.