

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Issue 8 Friday 3 July 2020

Headteacher Update

I hope that you and your families continue to keep well and safe.

The most important update to bring you this week will not be a surprise to you as it has been a major news item. Yesterday the DfE published their long awaited guidance on the full opening of schools for September. The full guidance can be found using the link below.

As you will see the guidance covers a range of school areas. Although we only have two weeks until the end of the summer term, I would like to assure you that senior leaders and other key members of staff will be using the guidance to draft out our plans over this time and report back to you before we finish for the summer holidays.

Over the last couple of weeks I have been meeting with student representatives from each year group to hear their experiences of home learning and indeed what they think they will need most on returning to school in September.

It will be important too for me to keep parents updated and informed of the plans and give you an opportunity to share your queries and any concerns you may have.

In order to keep you informed my intention is:

- To send out a short video before the end of term with information and updates as to where our planning has got to
- To conduct a webinar in August that updates you on our plans and gives an opportunity for parents to share queries and questions. This will include an outline of how we will be making significant improvements to the remote learning provision once new technology has been installed over the summer break and staff have been trained - we have to be ready for students needing to work from home and for the possibility of a local lockdown. It will also include an outline of the changes and measures we will be putting in place.

I hope that this gives you reassurance that in these exceptional circumstances the Trustees, myself and my senior leaders are determined to do our very best to ensure the safest, smoothest provision possible is in place for us to welcome back all of our students in September. These continue to be challenging and demanding times and I very much appreciate the parental support that we have received.

You will find attached to this parentmail a letter to all parents from Martin Hill, Chair of Trustees.

With very best wishes

Scilla Yates

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Issue 8 Friday 3 July 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

[Guidance for full opening - schools - GOV.UK](#)

Introduction. It is our plan that all pupils, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the next school term. This guidance is intended to support schools in preparing for this.

www.gov.uk

Deputy Headteachers' Teaching and Learning Update:

It is now the end of the third week that the Y10's and Y12's have attended school for their guidance and support in Chemistry, Computing, Physics and Geography. Once again, attendance was superb from both cohorts and I would like to continue to encourage all students over the next few weeks to keep on attending the sessions with the positivity that they have brought with them to date.

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, as well as on their school email as staff are also using this to remind students of the resources that have been developed.

Another of the areas that have stood out during 'lockdown' has been the weekly challenge that the Mrs Bakstad has been putting on for the students. Many students have been participating in these, with some students being more creative than others in their responses! Finding a winner is always difficult at Blue Coat as there is always a wealth of entries to choose from.

As well as this, Dr Wilde from the Physics department has been able to use his skills in teaching and learning to create a superb on-line wealth of A Level Physics mini seminars, to help the KS5 students with some of the content that has always been of difficulty for them.

We are always proud of all our students as we continually try to take any opportunity to celebrate their achievements; so too, we are also proud of all our staff and it is with immense pleasure that we can celebrate their achievements too and in particular all that they do for the students at Blue Coat.

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Issue 8 Friday 3 July 2020

Deputy Headteachers' Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare Update

This week saw the second meeting of our Equality & Diversity Focus Group. It was a really productive meeting, during which the students discussed how we can develop the education and promotion of equality and diversity across all areas of the school community. These plans will also allow students from all year groups to be involved and we look forward to implementing this in September.

As mentioned in the newsletter last week, our Year 7, 8 and 9 students have been sent a well-being and welfare survey. This is a vital tool to help our pastoral team support the students' well-being and welfare and over half of the students have already completed it. If your child has not done so already, can you please encourage them to complete it by Tuesday 7th July. Please remember if you have any questions or welfare concerns, contact us at welfare@bluecoatschool.org.uk and one of the team will respond.