

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Issue 9 Friday 10 July 2020

Headteacher Update

I hope you and your families are well.

Last week I shared with you that the DfE guidance on school full reopening in September had been published. Senior Leaders have had a productive week in designing plans to address the changes that will need to be put in place to adhere to the restrictions outlined in the guidance. We are very pleased that we will be able to welcome all students back in September, however, as you will understand, there is a need to put some significant changes in place if conditions remain the same. I will be updating all parents with the summary of these changes at the end of next week and then further details will be shared via a webinar in mid August. Please be assured that we will be keeping you updated with all the information when we have the full details.

Our student support team and pastoral leaders have worked extremely hard to offer one to one support to students when it has been needed during school closures. All Y7, Y8, Y9 students have now received an online questionnaire to complete that will give staff an indicator of which students need further individualised support.

Our Twitter account has again been busy this week. We are proud of our ongoing links with past students and really pleased that the Development Team have begun a new 5 minute video series which catches up with a range of Old Blues who share their career journeys since leaving Blue Coat. I encourage you to take a look, there are some wonderful stories.

With many thanks for your ongoing support and I will be in touch again next week.

Best wishes

Deputy Headteachers' Teaching and Learning Update:

It is now the end of the fourth week that the Y10's and Y12's have attended school. This week it was for their guidance and support in French, Technology, Psychology, Latin and Art. Once again, attendance was superb from both cohorts and with just one week to go I am sure that all students will have a lot to think about over the summer break.

We continue with the home learning element of the curriculum for all year groups and are trying now to focus on the consolidation elements within each subject area, that will have been put in place over the last few months.

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Once again there are many things that stand out in terms of the provision that has been provided by staff over lockdown. Another of them is that of the Foreign Language department who have continued with their speaking tests with the students on 'Teams' during this period. Although it was a different experience for the students, when chatting to them about it in school on one of their sessions, they clearly enjoyed this unusual experience demonstrating once again how adaptable and superb our students are.

It really has been a new experience for everyone, and one that students, teachers, and parents I am sure are learning from. We hear on the news about the 'normal' and the 'new normal'; getting to grips with this will undoubtedly include a role for all of us at some point. As ever, we continue to look forward to working with each one of you in a positive way as we do our best to move forward together.

Deputy Headteachers' Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare Update

As we approach the end of term, we are conscious that some of our students may continue to face challenges and anxieties due to Covid-19 and the impact of this. Next week we will be providing students and parents with an information sheet, which will offer guidance for families and signpost them to additional support should they require it. We will also be monitoring our welfare email over the summer holidays, welfare@bluecoatschool.org.uk

Throughout lockdown various departments and Key Stage Leaders have been challenging our students' creativity and athletic abilities, and it has been fantastic to see so many students get involved. The final challenge for this year is a Form Group Challenge and it would be lovely to see the students to come together as a group to compete. Each form has been asked to work together to complete as many minutes of continuous exercise (walking, cycling or running), with Form tutors can be included as well. Students are being asked to collate their minutes together and send their entry to Mrs Bakstad (e.bakstad@bluecoatschool.org.uk) by Wednesday 15th July 3:30pm.