

Headteacher update:

- Over the last couple of weeks we have carried out a review of the home learning provision and have set in place some actions from that review. Mr Watkins will be writing to you to update you on a new system we are putting in place. We hope that it will be helpful to parents of students in Y7-Y10 and Y12 and support your child's engagement in their home learning work.
- Our focus in the last couple of weeks has been to support our Y11 and Y13 parents and students by ensuring all the information regarding GCSE and A level grades is shared and to update them on resources and materials that are being provided during these very difficult months for them.
- Our school has continued to remain open for the children of key workers and for others when needed and we have only closed for Bank Holidays. It has been lovely to receive emails and messages of appreciation from these key worker parents. Colleagues from SLT, our teaching staff and support teams have enabled this to continue and we are very grateful.
- There has been much speculation on when and how schools may begin to re-open. I am in close contact with other Headteachers in the city and there is much work going on behind the scenes on a range of issues leading up to this. Here at Blue Coat, like other schools, we are waiting for a possible clear indicator from the Prime Minister this Sunday regarding this. It feels like the whole country is waiting in anticipation for this announcement and an outline of the plan to re-emerge. I will of course be in touch with you very quickly if there needs to be a response to the PM's announcement.

We are already considering some of the key issues surrounding a return to school in some form and will keep you informed along the way.

Deputy Headteachers' update:

Teaching and Learning Update

As with all we do there are always things that go well and things that could go better. Clearly this is something that both students and staff, as well as parents have found throughout this 'teaching and learning at home' process. In response to this, students have risen to the challenge of working productively from home, with the recent survey indicating that most of the students feel that they have engaged either 'Well or OK' with the tasks provided.

In terms of how much work has been set, again there seems to be almost a 50/50 split of either a 'Suitable amount or Too Much'. Clearly this is something that we have taken seriously and fed back to teachers, so that they are able to set possible time frames that will help students to organise their time well.

Teachers have also clearly responded to the challenge of trying to create a learning environment that is creative, challenging but fun. Not an easy task to do at the best of times. However, teachers continue to think about the students and consider ways that will help them to keep learning or consolidating work that will be of help to them when we all eventually can meet once again in school.

Deputy Headteachers' update:

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Since school closed, the Learning Support team and Key Stage Leaders have been offering a range of support on an individual student level and to entire Year groups. The focus has been on offering the same high standard of pastoral support beyond the school walls and ensuring that all students have someone to contact if they experience difficulties.

Learning Support have created a wide range of information, guidance and resources to support students and their families during this unprecedented and undoubtedly worrying time. All of these resources are easily accessible on the school's VLE platform and can be accessed whenever they are needed. Links to these resources, as well as additional information and guidance are also regularly added to the school's Twitter and website pages.

A recent addition to the resources available to students is a new online platform called Neurolove.org. This service provides a friendly ear and human support for young people to help them to keep virtually social and safe online. Young people struggling with anxiety and low mood, can book sessions directly with mentors and therapists, attend live groups and find content that will support them to manage their emotional and mental health in this current period of uncertainty, as well as creative activities and ways to keep active. All of these services can be accessed via the website at <https://neurolove.org/>

If you would like any further information regarding the support that school can offer or have any concerns regarding your child, please contact us via welfare@bluecoatschool.org.uk.

Resources update:

Our Estates Team have been busy over the period of school closure to make sure the school is open for children of key workers, clean and safe. They have also been using this time to undertake maintenance and repairs and one example of the work they have been focussing on is the school playing field astro turf which was decommissioned at the start of the year due to condition safety. We are delighted that we have been able to use the time to secure the replacement of the astro turf which is a significant project made possible through Development Office funding.

As you can imagine, our students and PE department will be delighted with this news.

