

Headteacher update:

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

- Attached to this email you will find a letter to all parents from Steve Reddy, Director of Children and Young People's Services.
- Over the last week there has been much discussion both locally and nationally regarding the timing of re-opening schools for different year groups across both primary and secondary schools. There have been many worries and anxieties. In line with other schools, Blue Coat will only be opening the school for our Y10 and Y12 students when it is the right time and safety is assured. We do hope to provide some face to face support for these students before the end of the summer term and will be in touch with them when are plans are finalised.
- It is clear from the PM's announcement that our Y7, Y8 and Y9 students will not be returning to school until September. This is an immense prospect for them. Our key stage leaders have ensured that they have been in touch with all students this week to encourage and support them with how they can manage these months. This will of course continue.
- Our staff continue to work hard to ensure students at home are being supported as best they can both in their home learning and their own welfare. Please do read the information and guidance below of how our pastoral team are available to offer support.
- May I send you and your families my best wishes.

Deputy Headteachers' update:

Teaching and Learning Update

With the introduction of the new provision grid for all students on the school's website, we have been pleased with the response of both students and parents to this new communication process. Of course, we do realise that it is the communication of what we want each student to think about that is most important, as it is this that will enable them to plan and organises themselves in all subject areas.

It is important however, for our students to understand that what is put forward is a guide as to what they should be doing, and it is not something that we would expect them to become anxious about or indeed burdensome. We know that our students are conscientious, and yes some might need to read their emails a little more often, but as we said at the beginning of this 'lockdown' period, it is about students keeping up the routine of work as we think about and prepare for the next few weeks and months.

We truly do appreciate all the hard work that you as parents and carers are putting into keeping your children focussed and working methodically through subjects, and as teachers and staff at Blue Coat, we do look forward to a point in the future when we can return to normal in school, with the buzz, enthusiasm and energy that the students bring to all aspects of school life.

Deputy Headteachers' update:

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Since the school closure many students have experienced increased levels of stress and anxiety, and this may have risen further since the announcement on Sunday that most students will not be returning to school until September. With this news in mind and for the wellbeing of students, teachers continue to provide clear and structured tasks to support student learning, which have been shared with parents via the school website:

<https://www.bluecoatschoolliverpool.org.uk/school-life-2/information-for-parents/>

Whilst it is important for students to keep their minds busy and maintain their studies, it is equally as important that students take time for themselves. The extended period away from school and limited social interactions due to lockdown, can often make it difficult to establish routines, focus fully on tasks and even find the motivation to study. We are also aware that many of our students may be sharing devices with multiple family members or are helping to provide care for others. These situations can be extremely challenging and it is important that students realise that these feelings are totally normal and not viewed as a failure. Each student must balance their workload with their wellbeing, and sometimes this can mean stepping back from a situation and taking time for themselves. The importance of relaxation, physical exercise or participating in an activity that they enjoy which helps them de-stress, cannot be underestimated, and can actually support their mindset when they study. We are encouraging all students to adopt these approaches and hope to support this in anyway that we can.

If you are concerned about how your child is coping with the school's closure and the effects of the pandemic, or if you have any other concerns (such as additional responsibilities or access to technology) which are impacting your child's wellbeing please contact welfare@bluecoatschool.org.uk and a member of staff will respond to you.

Resources update:

School Playing Fields

We are pleased to let you know that the resurfacing of the astro turf on the school field at Church Road has now been completed and we are delighted with the results.

The work has been done to a very high standard and we look forward to seeing students making full use of it in what is hopefully not the too distant future.

This work was made possible through the generous donations made by parents and others. Thank you for your support.

