

Headteacher update:

Firstly, I do hope you are all well and your families continue to cope with these difficult challenges.

A few updates for you from this week:

We were delighted to welcome Y10 and Y12 students into school this week for some face to face support from their teachers. It was wonderful to see them and see their joy at being back in the school and seeing their friends. Over 90% of our Y10 students have attended and 85% of our Y12 students - this is fantastic. This provision is enabling students and staff to reconnect and for bespoke support to be offered to each student face to face.

We continue to expand our online remote learning provision with more subject areas offering this face to face learning support. We are grateful for the patience that parents have shown with this over the last weeks and we are pleased that more teachers are delivering a learning experience in this way.

Today I met with two of the three key stage council groups for live meetings on line. In recent weeks we have gained views and feedback from students via questionnaires but it has been extremely useful to gain face to face feedback from students in this way on a range of school issues.

This week over 100 Y9 students attended an online assembly led by Miss Hodson and Mrs Bakstad who were able to offer specific support and guidance to our students throughout the live Q and A session. I know the students will have found this useful - the next one is being planned already.

You will all be aware of the statement we made in reference to the online petition regarding Brian Blundell, one of the Founders of the school. We have already gained many views from a range of groups associated with our school and we are currently putting together a plan as to how our consultation will run. Of course we will be welcoming views from parents and further details will be coming out in the next couple of weeks.

A word on government guidance....

You will all be aware that government guidance for schools across a huge number of areas is being updated all the time - we have to be very alert to keep up with it! As we approach July I am sure that some parents will have questions and queries in their minds about summer holidays and the new academic year. As we are more fully informed by the DfE we will of course put in place appropriate plans and will keep you updated as soon as possible.

Many thanks again for your support. I have to say these continue to be very challenging times for everyone as there still remain so many unknowns. Can I assure you that we as senior leaders are doing our very best to support the ongoing learning and welfare of our students.

With very best wishes to you and your families.

Deputy Headteachers' update: Teaching and Learning

At the end of the first week where we have seen the return of our Y10 and Y12 students to undertake sessions of support and guidance from our English, History, Spanish and Mathematics departments, the feedback both from students and staff has been extremely purposeful and encouraging. At times it was difficult to work out who was the most pleased to see the other person in the classroom, teacher or student, but clearly it was a positive experience for all who took part.

Once again, we continue with the home learning element of the curriculum and ask that the students continually look on the website to find out what has been set for them from the different subject areas. One of the home learning mechanisms used by staff is that of on-line learning where teachers have been able to develop the virtual classroom for students at home. An excellent example of this is the Chemistry department who have been able to guide and support our Y12 students through the Cambridge University Challenge culminating in a remote invigilation of the paper. As well as this they have been able to film themselves undertaking complex 'walk through calculations' that once again support and guide our students in what can be a very challenging concept.

Although possibly forgotten about, if we had been at school today it would have been the school Sports Day; an event that always brings about a few fast and slow surprises! Perhaps this weekend, if the weather is nice and it is safe to do so, it might be an opportunity for our students to do something physical outside to mark this yearly event, hopefully with a smile on their faces as was usual on the actual day!

Deputy Headteachers' update:

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

The Government has recently announced that the Free School Meal voucher system will continue throughout the summer holidays. The vouchers will be issued every three weeks. If you have any difficulties accessing the vouchers or believe that you now qualify for this support, please email any queries to a.melia@bluecoatschool.org.uk.

Alongside welcoming Year 10 and 12 students back into school this week, we also hosted our first Equality and Diversity focus group. Students met with a group of staff to discuss how diversity and equality at Blue Coat can be improved and celebrated. After a positive and thought-provoking meeting, we are looking forward to further meetings to plan our next steps as a school community.