

Headteacher update - 18

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been a quieter week in terms of announcements regarding education, yesterday we heard that parents, children and schools will have two weeks notice before the re-opening of schools. It sounds like there may also be a regional approach to re-opening based on the circumstances of each area. We have no indication when schools will re-open, but we hope this will be sooner rather than later.

On Wednesday, Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, wrote to schools to thank them for their efforts with the initial testing process for staff and students but also to inform them of a change in approach.

He also announced that the serial (daily) testing process for those staff and students that have been identified as close contacts, will be put on hold and that close contacts of positive cases will revert back to self-isolation.

At present, this change only affects our key worker/vulnerable student provision and staff working in school. We expect updates on this in the lead up to re-opening.

The DfE and Ofqual have launched a consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021, as a school we will be responding to the consultation. As soon as there is an outcome, we will let you know. In the meantime, if your child is in Year 11 or 13 it is vital that they remain engaged with their lessons and studies as it is highly likely that there will be some form of school-based testing as part of the assessment process.

Remote Learning Parent/Carer survey - You said...We did...

Thank you to all parents/carers for responding to the online survey last week. The survey outcomes were extremely positive and included many lovely comments about our online provision. We appreciate that these are challenging times for all involved in online schooling and, as a school, we are constantly learning and developing our practice to ensure we can deliver the best curriculum and pastoral support possible.

From the feedback and suggestions, we have created a 'you said, we did' document to address the points. Please [click here](#) to access the document.

Live Lessons and Screen Time

As a school, we believe daily contact and a structured school day through live lessons is currently the most appropriate way to ensure students are continuing to engage with the curriculum and make progress. We are aware that for both students and teachers, the amount of screen time has increased during this remote learning period.

As a direct result, we are consulting with Heads of Faculty on Monday about a different approach to homework for Key Stage 4 students and looking at introducing more offline activities for students to complete.

For all students and teachers, it is necessary to manage screen time as effectively as possible.

- **Limit the number of screens** - It is very tempting for students to play video games on another screen, message friends, and watch TikToks while lessons are taking place.
- **Take the breaks** – Students have 35 minutes for break and 50 minutes for lunch built into their school day. It is essential they come away from screens as much as possible during these times.

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- **Set up device free times** - Technology allows us to do so much, but downtime is important for our family to connect without devices and be able to enjoy a dedicated place where you don't have to be 'on'.
- **Get some physical activity — away from screens.** It doesn't have to be every day, but make sure you're achieving a balance of online and offline activities throughout the week.

Student wellbeing

On Tuesday, Mrs Latta sent an email to all students reminding them of the importance of looking after their wellbeing, along with details of how to access support at school.

As is always the case there is lots of support for students from staff at school if they are struggling or want some advice. Students can contact their head of year or college or indeed any teacher or member of the school staff they feel comfortable talking to.

If they would rather remain anonymous but still want advice and support, we have our wellbeing e-mail where they can send a message, and someone will respond wellbeing@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

Coronavirus Anxiety Workbook

A number of parents/carers and students have been anxious during the pandemic. This resource may support individuals and families through these challenging times. It is full of good advice and activities to help manage anxiety. Please [click here](#) to access the resource.

Year 8 Parents Evening

Considering our year 8 parents on Wednesday 27 January we have recommended that our year 8 teachers deliver a maximum of 3 lessons during the school day to reduce the amount of time that they will be online. This means that some classes will not have a live lesson and will instead receive their work to complete independently via their school email address.

Year 11 into 12 options and transition

Mrs Johnson has distributed 'save the date' flyers to all Year 11s and we are currently finalising the presentations and supportive materials ready for the launch day. More information on this will be distributed next week.

Year 9 options process

As with the Year 11 in to 12 options process, Year 9 options will be conducted online this year. We have a comprehensive plan in place to ensure all students and parents/carers have the same opportunities to obtain relevant information to ensure students make the appropriate choices for their transition into Key Stage 4. More information on these events will be distributed next week.

Grayson Perry's Art Club

The Art department have emailed all students encouraging them to submit work to be involved a project run by Grayson Perry's Art Club. Lots of submissions appeared on the TV show, or had art featured during the last series. And a lucky few will be exhibited at Manchester Art Gallery alongside work by some of the leading artists and the celebrity guests that Grayson and Philippa welcomed to the show.

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Please talk to your child about this opportunity and encourage them to get involved if they would like to.

Details have been sent to individual student emails.

Happy PEople Podcast

Episode 3 - 'Her'story is out now.

The guest this week is Mrs Francis - we talk about the importance of walking, sharing other's successes and bouncing back from injury.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/1LpwpfMs2YGq9YTHFiinID?si=HrU8ySIPQBSzM1wZvGKdg>

	<p>Episode 3 - 'Her'story - The Happy 'PE'ople</p> <p>This week's episode brings you a light-hearted and fantastic conversation about family, sharing other's successes and the mountains. open.spotify.com</p>
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If you would like to message the school, please email communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk or to nominate a member of staff for a personalised thank you, please [click this link](#).

Reminder- Reporting COVID-19 positive cases

In order for the school to keep accurate records of COVID-19 cases amongst students, could we please ask that you continue to email communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk if your child(ren) test positive.

Reminder- KEY WORKER AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN SCHOOL PROVISION

The school remains open next week for Vulnerable children and Critical worker children only. Please support the government lockdown measures by keeping your child at home wherever possible and encouraging stringent social distancing. If your situation at home has changed and you require your child to attend the in-school provision, please email communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

Reminder- ONLINE SAFETY

National Online Safety have created a series of guides to promote e-safety for all. Please click the link <https://nationaleducationgroup.cmail20.com/t/t-l-nkrhhuy-ailjitth-y/>

Reminder- FINANCIAL SUPPORT

As a community we are aware that many parents/carers have been affected by places of work closing and earning potential being minimised. A reminder that we have the food bank and clothing bank in school, and these are available to anyone in need please just contact communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk and this can be confidentially arranged.

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The school is always just an email away if you have concerns about your family but below are a few links that may help with financial pressures or queries:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/>

All forms of advice, including employment and finances affected by Coronavirus

https://www.stepchange.org/?channel=ppc&&WT.srch=1&WT.mc_id=270049&WT.seg_1=step%20change%20debt&gclid=Cj0KCQjpfHzBRCiARIsAHHzyZprzWaWlUAJCCdl_OnAbdj3oBRFtb5n2NhJsloPhifATi3vfNGZ3AaAoTIEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds

A Debt Charity with information about who to contact for support and advice

<https://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

A site for new applications to Universal Credit

<https://www.loansmart.org.uk/#about-loan-sharks>

Tips about how to avoid illegal loan companies

Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children

The Government have a scheme that temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that children and young people can access remote education during the lockdown period.

If you would like to know more about this, please email communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

If you would like clarification regarding any school matters, please do not hesitate to get in contact via communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

Thank you once again for your support and have a lovely weekend.

Mr Fitzpatrick

Mr Roberts

Executive Headteacher

Head of School