

BARNWELL SCHOOL PARENTAL UPDATE WEEK 2

3/4/2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope this second update finds you and your family well. These remain uncertain times and as a school, we are fully aware that many families are concerned about the future. The school has remained open and we have a small team of staff on site every weekday, with the rest of the staff working remotely. Please remember that we are here to help if you need us.

As promised, each week, we will send an update to share the latest information we are getting from the Department for Education about schools, examinations and qualifications. We will also include schoolwork and wellbeing updates with hints and tips for activities to do with your families.

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION UPDATE - YEAR 11 AND 13

The government have today announced the process for the grading of qualifications in Summer 2020. The over-riding aim in this process is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure they are not disadvantaged in their progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

How will grades be calculated?

Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges

Your school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course.

This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board.

Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade?

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

What about BTEC and CTEC qualifications?

We are still awaiting guidance on these qualifications.

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When will I get my results?

We're working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.

Can I take my exams another time?

We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks.

The information we have published covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, in our detailed guidance; along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have. We will keep updating our guidance as new information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on our website.

Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned.

More detailed information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcses-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020>

As outlined by OFQUAL, please do not contact the school about student predictions.

SCHOOLWORK UPDATE

Thank you to all parents that completed the online form last week to help us as a school adjust our provision for students working at home.

The first thing to say is that there will be no new work set over the Easter holiday period. We would advise all of our students not feel compelled to complete any schoolwork over the holidays. This has been an intense few weeks for them and they need time to rest, recuperate and process what they have been through.

Some students have enjoyed the routine they have maintained since finishing school. Therefore, subject areas have posted optional project-based work for students to complete if they choose to.

After the holidays, we will be changing the work expectations of Key Stage 3 students and they will see a reduction in the amount set each week. This will give them an opportunity to focus on other aspects of life, independent learning and more opportunity to read for pleasure. Details of the new proposals for Key Stage 3 will be finalised and distributed over the next two weeks. This amendment will also enable teachers to prioritise Year 10 and 12 with learning that is more focused on progress through their examination syllabuses.

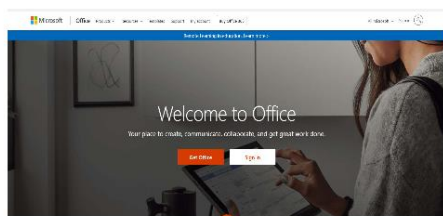
Year 11 are not expected to complete any further GCSE work. During the next term we will be contacting all Year 11 students and setting work that will be more appropriate for looking ahead to the next stage in their education. We are sure that Year 13 will want to start thinking about how they can prepare for life after school.

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FREE MICROSOFT WINDOWS APPLICATIONS (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)

As a Microsoft school, students are able to access all of the Microsoft applications through their Office 365 (O365) accounts. Please follow these instructions:

Weblink - <https://www.office.com>



School Website > Our Links > O365 Email



Sign in: using your **School Email Address** and **School Password**
e.g. 19SmithJo@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

Install Office for free



CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Please find below a message from Jennie Newman, the Head of Integrated Services at Hertfordshire County Council:

Dear All

I know you will be working hard to support children and young people with additional needs either at home or in a school setting. It is a challenging time for everyone, and the Integrated Services for Learning teams want to make sure you have access to the support you need. We have therefore prepared a series of resources to support you with:

- General COVID-19 tools for helping children and young people understand the current context
- A range of resources aimed to support teaching and learning
- Resources and website links aimed to support mental health and wellbeing.

These and more resources are also available on the Local Offer via the following link;

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/resources-for-parents-and-professionals/send-documents-and-resources.aspx?searchInput=&page=1&resultsPerPage=10&view=card>

Take care of yourselves and your families,

Jennie Newman
Head of Integrated Services for Learning
Children's Services

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CONGRATULATIONS

Before the school closed, the school ran a British Science Week Competition. The winners and runners-up were:

Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
Winner - Cara H Runner up - Deni B	Winner - Kamila S Runner up - Amelia B	Winner - Damians J Runner up - Taryn R

KEY WORKER AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN SCHOOL PROVISION

The school remains open over the Easter holiday for vulnerable and key worker children only. Please support the government lockdown measures by keeping your child at home wherever possible and encouraging stringent social distancing.

FREE COURSES

All students have now received emails with their BeReady log on details and quite a few students have begun their self-learning journeys. A reminder that the following short online certificated courses have been identified as useful for our students.

Foundations of Communication, Foundations of Confidence, Foundations of Leadership, Foundations of Resilience, A guide to Assertiveness, Developing Communication Skills, Developing Resilience, Developing Leadership Skills.

Students simply need to select 'browse courses', select the course and work through the videos and resources. We will be able to see who has completed the courses and we will celebrate their successes when we return to school. Please encourage your child to download their certificates as they go along.

WELLBEING AND SAFEGUARDING

In these difficult times, mental health and wellbeing should be at the forefront of our minds. As previously stated, education is important but the mental and physical health of children and young people is the priority.

The children & young person's team at Herts Mind Network under the Spot the Signs and Emotional Wellbeing project are offering a series of free webinars, throughout April, based around the following areas:

1. ***5 Ways of Wellbeing for families (with a focus on isolation)***
2. ***Introduction to Mental Health for families***
3. ***Emotional Wellbeing & Coping Strategies for parents/carers to support themselves and their young person(s)***
4. ***Adolescent Development for teens and parent/carers***
5. ***Spot the Signs Youth Suicide Prevention course for youth professionals***

Sessions will regularly be added to our Eventbrite (<https://bit.ly/2QZqK4f>) with the addition of a short-format suicide prevention session coming soon. If you follow our Eventbrite page and encourage others to do so you will be notified of when new events are listed.

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The Eventbrite link is for *individuals* wishing to book on.

Spot the Signs & Emotional Wellbeing Webinars

The Spot the Signs & Emotional Wellbeing Project continues to run free of charge webinars on a range of wellbeing content for young people, parents/carers and youth professionals.

To book yourself on, visit Eventbrite (<https://bit.ly/2QZqK4f>) or contact lara.mchale@hertfordshiremind.org to arrange a webinar for a group of individuals.





Spot the Signs & Emotional Wellbeing Webinars			
Course	Who for	Date	Time
5 Ways of Wellbeing	Families ¹	14/04/2020	10:00-10:45
Introduction to Mental Health	Families ¹	15/04/2020	13:00-14:00
Emotional Wellbeing & Coping Strategies	Carers ²	17/04/2020	12:30-14:00
Emotional Wellbeing & Coping Strategies	Carers ²	20/04/2020	12:00-13:30
5 Ways of Wellbeing	Families ¹	21/04/2020	15:30-16:15
Introduction to Mental Health	Families ¹	24/04/2020	11:00-12:00
Spot the Signs Suicide Awareness	Youth Professionals	27/04/2020	10:30-15:00
5 Ways of Wellbeing	Families ¹	28/04/2020	13:00-13:45
Emotional Wellbeing & Coping Strategies	Carers ²	29/04/2020	15:30-17:00
Introduction to Mental Health	Families ¹	30/04/2020	14:00-15:00

¹ Families: This session is open to all the family and parents/carers may join accompanied by their child or teen
² Carers: Parents & Carers of a young person

For more information and to book onto an individual webinar session, please visit our Eventbrite: bit.ly/2QZqK4f

If you would like to book an in-house session for your class or team email lara.mchale@hertfordshiremind.org to arrange how to get your group into a private webinar that they can all access from home.

One of the fundamental elements of wellbeing is exercise, especially when children and families are at home. I know many families, including my own, have been enjoying the daily Joe Wicks workouts, but Sport England have an initiative called #StayInWorkOut that provides links to various options for maintaining an active lifestyle. Please click the link:

https://www.sportengland.org/stayinworkout#join_the_movement

Hertfordshire County Council have continually been working with schools to ensure all students and families get the appropriate support. Most recently we received an email regarding support for children and young people with additional needs at home or in the school setting. The Integrated Services for Learning teams want to make sure parents/carers of these children have access to the support needed. There is one dedicated telephone contact number where the educational psychology service will respond and, if necessary, signpost parents/carers to someone who can offer specific advice and support. This contact line **01992 588574** is available **Monday-Friday between 2:00-4:30pm.**

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Hertfordshire County Council also have a website offering Mental Health and wellbeing support and advice to young people, families and professionals around COVID-19 called JUSTTALK.

<https://www.justtalkherts.org/news/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus.aspx>

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-ajijttth-y/>

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. 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/?](https://www.stepchange.org/?channel=ppc&&WT.srch=1&WT.mc_id=270049&WT.seg_1=step%20change%20debt&gclid=Cj0KCQjwpfHzBRCiARIsAHHzyZp-rzWaWUAJCCdl_OnAbdj3oBRFtb5n2NhJsloPhjfATi3vfNGZ3AaAoTIEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds)

[channel=ppc&&WT.srch=1&WT.mc_id=270049&WT.seg_1=step%20change%20debt&gclid=Cj0KCQjwpfHzBRCiARIsAHHzyZp-](https://www.stepchange.org/?channel=ppc&&WT.srch=1&WT.mc_id=270049&WT.seg_1=step%20change%20debt&gclid=Cj0KCQjwpfHzBRCiARIsAHHzyZp-rzWaWUAJCCdl_OnAbdj3oBRFtb5n2NhJsloPhjfATi3vfNGZ3AaAoTIEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds)

[rzWaWUAJCCdl_OnAbdj3oBRFtb5n2NhJsloPhjfATi3vfNGZ3AaAoTIEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.stepchange.org/?channel=ppc&&WT.srch=1&WT.mc_id=270049&WT.seg_1=step%20change%20debt&gclid=Cj0KCQjwpfHzBRCiARIsAHHzyZp-rzWaWUAJCCdl_OnAbdj3oBRFtb5n2NhJsloPhjfATi3vfNGZ3AaAoTIEALw_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

Phone numbers for pre-paid gas and electricity meters

Phone if you have a prepay meter, inform them you are self-isolating and they will send you out 2 weeks' worth of gas/electricity or if you have a smart meter they will top you up.

BRITISH GAS 0333 202 9802

EDF 0333 200 5100

EON 0345 052 000

N POWER 0800 073 3000

SCOTTISH POWER 0800 027 0072

SSE 0345 026 2658

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you think you might be eligible for Free School Meals, then do apply as soon as possible once you have read the information below. If you are eligible then the school could receive additional funding which can be used to support your child.

Hertfordshire County Council could save you over £400 in school meals every year.

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If you receive one of the following benefits, then you could be eligible for free school meals worth over £400 per child per year.

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Child Tax Credit (providing you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
- Support under Pat VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full time education

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

To apply, or for more information, visit www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals

COMMUNITY WORK

As a school we have been involved in several community projects so far we have:

- donated food boxes to identified families
- donated science goggles to the Lister hospital
- donated minibuses and drivers to support the NHS with vital work

We have also been contacted by the East and North Hertfordshire Hospitals Charity to promote the amazing work that they are doing, raising much needed funds at this incredibly difficult time for our amazing NHS. They are raising money for additional hospital supplies and also for basic necessities that will support the wellbeing of staff and patients. You can donate either;

On their website <http://www.enhcharity.org.uk/appeal/hereforeachother>

Or by Text -HERE4EACHOTHER to 70085

They have also set up an Amazon Wish List. The hospitals have been overwhelmed by the generosity and community spirit since the outbreak of COVID 19. In the present situation, they are, of course, discouraging people entering the hospital unnecessarily. Instead, they have created an ever-changing Wish List on Amazon, which will reflect the current need in the hospitals. Although the list may look slightly random, everything has been carefully considered and is based on requests directly from frontline staff. There are also many items for children -this is not directly due to COVID 19, but of course, as in all wards, they are still receiving patients for other reasons. To minimise risk to the children and staff, the young patients are no longer able to go for a walk and stretch their legs around the hospital and the abundance of toys and equipment they have in their playrooms now needs to be

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carefully managed to prevent any possible risk of infection. With this in mind, there are lots of single use activities on the list that can be given to individual children for the duration of their stay. When speaking to a member of the charity team, they are very mindful that everyone is in a different position financially and would not want to put any additional pressures on families. We are simply sharing so those who can help have an opportunity to do so.

Amazon Wish List link:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/347BA00UUEMZ4?ref=wl_share

20 IDEAS FOR PARENTS

As parents ourselves, we know how hard lockdown is with children of varying ages. Below are 20 ideas that may help with family life and engagement and for some boredom:

The great outdoors. Fresh air and exercise will help to banish boredom and housebound blues, even if it is now limited. Go for a walk in the local area, giving your kids the map to plan the route. With younger children, give them a bag and collect 'treasures' on the way – a beautiful leaf, stone or flower. Nearer to home, try tree climbing in your local park or set up camp in your garden and use stargazing apps like Nightsky.

Create a routine. Many children will benefit from a daily routine – it's something they are used to at school. Build a plan that works for everyone and is age-appropriate. Ensure there are regular breaks and a set lunch hour and include screen-time as part of your schedule so children know what to expect.

Reading for pleasure. Encourage your child to read daily. Set older children book reading challenges such as 'a book a day/week' to motivate them, or create virtual book clubs with their friends using video chat apps, Google hangouts or Group FaceTime. If you run out of books, search for free audio and ebooks online. With younger children, create book-themed treasure hunts around the house or encourage them to make their own books or draw book covers featuring their favourite characters.

Free resources. Many educational websites (including Teachit) are offering free access to learning resources during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. Ask your child which subject/s they think they need to work on most and search online together to find worksheets and resources to suit.

Train like a champion. Keeping physically active is particularly important for children. Research the training regime of a famous sportsperson or idol and get your child to create their own daily or weekly training programme, using videos and apps to help. Keep a record to track their progress and use rewards to motivate them, or set them the challenge of creating a family workout with DIY circuits and time trial challenges. Younger children might enjoy [Go Noodle](#) or [Cosmic kids yoga](#) for their daily workouts.

Learn a lingo. While foreign travel may not be possible, virtual language lessons are. You can find a rich selection of videos and free apps to help your child learn some of the basics of any language in the world. Set them a challenge – how many languages can they count to ten in by the end of the week? How do you say hello in Japanese?

Good neighbours. Think of ways your family could help neighbours or older people in your community by running errands, picking up shopping or walking a dog, while following the guidance on social distancing. Could your children write letters to residents of local care homes, create little gift boxes, bake some biscuits or simply pick a bunch of flowers from your garden to brighten someone's spirits?

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Be more Greta! Take this opportunity to get back to nature as a family. Plant a few veg seeds or a bee-friendly wildflower patch. Try your hand at making seed bombs, a bug hotel or a birdbath and feeder. [Trees for schools](#) and the [RSPB](#) have lots of child-friendly ideas, upcycling projects and resources online.

Family jobs. With families at home, even very young children can be encouraged to help with jobs around the house. Older children might enjoy projects such as room makeovers and DIY, mowing the lawn or cooking family meals. Younger children might like to get involved in looking after pets, cleaning the car, sweeping up or using the vacuum cleaner.

Making movies. Encourage your children to make stop motion shorts and Lego-style movies with apps like [Stop Motion Studio](#), or use [Telestory](#) to make themed tv shows with backgrounds, costumes and special effects, or create cartoons with [Toontastic](#). They might also like to experiment with green screen apps.

Time travelling. Keep a daily diary for future historians studying the Coronavirus pandemic or create and bury a time capsule for future generations to find.

Pinspiration. Pinterest is a great source of ideas and step-by-step photo guides. Search for craft tutorials, fitness workouts, ideas for rainy days, tips for room makeovers and incredible recipes. If your child has a special interest, you'll find something to excite them.

Photodiary. Get your children to make a photodiary, collage or scrapbook for something they are learning about, cutting and sticking images or using a tool like [Bookcreator](#) to make their own digital book. Older children could use this for school work or revision.

A night at the movies. Dim the lights, get your favourite snacks or popcorn and settle down for a family night in with a favourite film. Work your way through the classics, or let a different family member choose each night's entertainment.

Friends in need. Help your children feel connected to others. Younger children might enjoy exchanging messages with friends in secret code or swapping drawings with each other digitally. Older children can sign up for an international pen pal online or join [Post Crossing](#) to send and receive postcards from around the world, while teenagers will enjoy virtually hanging out with friends using Zoom or apps like House Party.

Board game Olympics. A great way for siblings to play together at home, set up a board game competition based on the Olympics including all your favourite family games. Compete for medals in each 'category' and keep a medal tally.

Learn a new skill. Encourage your child to try something they have always wanted to do – learn to touch type, bake a cake without adult help, use Morse code, make a fire or master football tricks etc. Challenge them to perfect their skill over a week by practising regularly.

Round the world night. Take it in turns to cook a meal or order a takeaway from a different country. Make it more authentic by listening to music and watching films, cooking or travel programmes or even cartoons from that country – search YouTube or Spotify for playlists.

Virtual museum trips. While museums may have closed their doors, you can still visit their collections online. [The Science Museum](#), [British Museum](#), [Museum of London](#) and [Natural History Museum](#) all have resources for children, and [NASA](#) has a range of space projects for kids. You can even do a virtual tour of over 500 international museums using [Google Arts and Culture](#).

Wonders of the world. Extend children's natural curiosity about the world with specially selected [Ted talks](#), or use [Common Sense Media](#) for suggestions for children's documentaries and podcasts, along with reviews and age ratings. [The Week Junior](#) and the [BBC's Newsround](#) will help to keep kids up-to-date, along with a weekly online news quiz.

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Another link for resources is provided by Common Sense Media

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/resources-for-families-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

Finally, we would like to say well done to all of you; we fully appreciate the daily difficulties you are facing and the different responsibilities you are all juggling. We would like you to know that whatever you are managing to do in terms of home learning is good enough; whether your child willingly and independently engages each morning or perhaps requires a little more cajoling and completes just some of the activities is absolutely fine. This is a whole new challenge for us all and home learning will look different for different families. It is also absolutely fine to be doing your own thing in your own way.

Again, apologies for the incredibly long update but we felt it was important to try and centralise all information distributed from the school. Stay safe and please do not hesitate to contact the school on communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk if you require clarity or advice on any points linked to education or Barnwell School.

Regards

Mr T Fitzpatrick
Executive Headteacher

Mr M Roberts
Head of School