

BARNWELL SCHOOL PARENTAL UPDATE WEEK 5

24/4/2020

Dear Parents/Carers

On Sunday, Gavin Williamson – Secretary of State for Education – confirmed that no decision has been made on a timetable for re-opening schools. Schools remain closed until further notice, except for children of critical workers and our most vulnerable children. Moreover, schools will only re-open when the scientific advice indicates that it is right to do so.

Following this decision, Barnwell will continue to welcome those small numbers of pupils into our schools, providing the learning and pastoral care that you would expect. For the vast majority not in school, curriculum materials and learning activities will continue to be provided. Ongoing communications from school will ensure that parents/carers always know what is happening.

In such uncertain and challenging times, we often see the very best of the human spirit. We are tremendously grateful to you for keeping your children safe and actively engaged in learning. Also, to staff for keeping Barnwell School open for identified groups and providing curriculum materials for those learning from home. The numbers in school have risen again post-Easter and our staff worked hard to make sure those students had a productive and memorable experience – a particular shoutout goes to Mr Mendelsohn for his pasta and gnocchi making over the last week. Please remember that we are here to help all families if you need us.

We share the same goal of wanting all students to be back enjoying their learning and our school being fully open again. By supporting and taking care of each other, we will achieve this together.

SCHOOLWORK UPDATE

We hope that students (and parents) are back into a routine following the Easter break. Wellbeing and balance remain critical during this lockdown phase. If you or your child(ren) are struggling, please do not hesitate to contact their head of year/college.

As you will be aware that we have adjusted the Key Stage 3 work expectations.

Years 7 – 9 Core subjects (English, mathematics and science)

Key Stage 3 year groups are being set English, mathematics and science weekly. Tasks will be in line with work that has already been set during the lockdown period. These activities will be based around consolidation of previously studied materials and research work linked to the current curriculum.

Work will be staggered across the week to make it manageable for students and one piece of work will need to be submitted online by the end of the week to be assessed by the teacher during the following week. Teachers will record the effort and feedback through SMHW.

Years 7 – 9 Foundation subjects

Key stage 3 year groups will be set work from foundation subjects on a rotation basis. Students will have one week to complete the activity set and submit evidence online where possible. Teachers will have one week to assess the work. Teachers will record the effort and feedback through SMHW.

	w/b 27/4	w/b 4/5	w/b 11/5	w/b 18/5
YEAR 7	Geog	Tech	Hist	Exp Arts
YEAR 8	Tech	Hist	Exp Arts	Langs (French)
YEAR 9	Hist	Exp Arts	Langs	Geog

Barnwell PRIDE and PE will set work as timetabled. However, no work needs to be submitted online.

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Year 10

The setting of work for Year 10 will continue in the same way as it has since the beginning of the lockdown period. Students should expect work from all core and option subject areas. Activities will be based around consolidation of previously studied materials and research work linked to the current curriculum.

Work will be staggered across the week to make it manageable for students and one piece of work will need to be submitted online by the end of the week to be assessed by the teacher during the following week. Teachers will record the effort and feedback through SMHW.

Year 12

The setting of work for Year 12 will continue in the same way as it has since the beginning of the lockdown period. Students should expect work from all option subject areas. Activities will be based around consolidation of previously studied materials and research work linked to the current curriculum.

NEW ONLINE RESOURCES

This week the Government and the BBC launched new online education resources to support students and schools.

BBC Daily lessons can be accessed via this link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Oak National Academy lessons can be accessed via this link: <https://www.thenational.academy/>

These resources are excellent if your child(ren) would like to supplement the work set by their teachers.

KEY WORKER AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN SCHOOL PROVISION

The school remains open next week for vulnerable children and key 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

LAPTOPS FOR STUDENTS

On Sunday 19 April, the Government announced support for vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people who do not have access to a digital device during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Their communication states that laptops and tablets will be supplied to support remote education and help children and young people stay in touch with social care services.

The government have written to the local authority explaining who is eligible and how they can request a device and get it to those who need it.

Schools will not order devices directly and therefore we ask you to not contact the school regarding laptop eligibility.

Who is eligible?

Laptops and tablets are available for the most disadvantaged children who would otherwise not have access and are:

- Care leavers
- Children with a social worker (including pre-school children)
- Children in Year 10, ahead of GCSEs next year

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The local authority will be given a fixed number of laptops and tablets to support children and young people in these groups.

Care leavers and children with a social worker

Local authorities will be responsible for ordering devices for care leavers and children with a social worker who they are responsible for. Local authorities will work with schools to identify care leavers and children with a social worker who need devices.

All devices for care leavers and children with a social worker will be allocated and delivered to local authorities. Local authorities are responsible for managing distribution to children and young people, liaising with schools where appropriate.

Year 10 students

Local authorities are responsible for ordering devices for Year 10 pupils who do not have a social worker and do not have the means to access a laptop or tablet. They will work with schools to identify these children.

These devices will be delivered directly to schools will be distributed to identified families and children.

Delivery, set up and distribution of devices

Laptops and tablets will have settings to make sure they are safe and secure online. The school will also apply its own settings and software to match the education resources fit with its own policies.

Once the devices are set up and ready to go, the school will be responsible for getting the laptops or tablets to children, for example arranging for them to be collected by families from your school (with a social worker present where relevant) or organising for them to be sent to children's and care leavers' homes. This will be done in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

WELLBEING, SAFEGUARDING AND SUPPORT

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.

Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust have released the following information:

Because of this situation, all community services like those we provide at HCT are changing so that staff can support the local response to Covid-19. This is a clear instruction to us from the NHS in England. It means we have to postpone treatments and appointments for conditions that are not urgent or do not represent a risk to someone's life. Therefore, for the foreseeable future we will not be able to provide our usual services for children, young people and their families. This includes one to one support for non-urgent health referrals. Your child will be kept on a waiting list until our services can resume. Once this happens, we will contact you to see if you still need our help.

Services which will continue:

There is a School Nurse on duty every weekday that can support you with any concerns you may have about your child's/children's health and wellbeing. They can be contacted on: 0300 123 7572 from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Chathealth texting service - 07480 635050 This service is available for young people aged 11 to 19. Texts are responded to by a school nurse between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday

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You can also contact the Hertfordshire Family Centre Service on 0300 123 7572 or visit any of these websites:

Hertfordshire Family Centre Service – www.hertsfamilycentres.org

Health for Kids – www.healthforkids.co.uk/hertfordshire

Health for Teens - <https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire>

Safer Places, an organisation dedicated to supporting people affected by abuse have launched a [new live chat service](#):

The new service enables anyone experiencing abuse to chat directly with a member of the Safer Places team.

The measures announced to tackle coronavirus (COVID 19) have seen day to day life change dramatically and undoubtedly made it harder for people to access support services as survivors are isolated with abusers with small windows of opportunity to speak. This new service will give survivors the opportunity to access support discreetly.

The service provides survivors with information and supports individuals to make choices about how to increase their safety, the safety of their family and make decisions about their future. Research tells us that more and more of us go online to find information and look for answers. Safer Places online chat service is available both day and night and enables those who feel safer seeking support online to chat to a qualified professional to get confidential support and advice when, where, and how they want it.

Janet Dalrymple, CEO of Safer Places said:

"Safer Places provide life changing and life saving support services across Essex and Hertfordshire. Our new Live Chat service will allow us to reach more people affected by abuse and give survivors the opportunity to safely access non-judgemental support and advice. Coronavirus (COVID 19) is impacting upon us all and we are seeing a dramatic rise in the numbers of those wanting to access our services and how they wish to do so. It can be incredibly difficult to talk about abuse - and making a call can be difficult, now more than ever with abusers in the home. That's why we have worked around the clock to create our Live Chat service. Our qualified expert staff are now available by phone and live-chat every day, day and night. We want to reassure everyone in the communities that we serve that we are here for you, when you need us and how you need us, our support is led by you".

The new service will initially be open between 8:30am and 5pm Monday to Friday and 8pm - 8am Fri - Sun 8pm - 8am.

We have also attached 2 resources to support you and your families and a link you may choose to use with your child(ren):

Resource 1: **Covid19 advice for parents when child unwell or injured poster**

Resource 2: **Five ways to wellbeing**

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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.

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

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

The **Aspire Higher Programme** is a partnership between the Universities of Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Northampton. Barnwell school is connected with these universities and employers, helping students to access learning opportunities. They also run targeted outreach activities with us as a school to support students in having exposure to Higher Education experiences.

This is the link to many resources from the University of Hertfordshire for our Key Stage 4 and 5 students.

<https://aspire-higher.co.uk/events/>

Simply select Barnwell and select some of the many online activities.

Learn Live is a free platform for all age groups providing access to a wide variety of live interactive broadcasts and video on demand based around careers and health education.

<https://learnliveuk.com/videos-index/>

Stay safe and please do not hesitate to contact the school on communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk if you require clarification or advice on any points linked to education or Barnwell School.

Regards

Mr T Fitzpatrick
Executive Headteacher

Mr M Roberts
Head of School