

BARNWELL SCHOOL PARENTAL UPDATE WEEK 6

1/5/2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Another week has flown by and we still await confirmation of the plans for schools to return to a degree of normality. In the meantime, we would like to thank all students, parents and staff for the ongoing resilience being demonstrated in these challenging times.

This week, staff have begun to contact all students to make sure they are remaining safe and well. For staff making the calls, it has been lovely to catch up with students in their form groups. If you have not received a call as yet, they are being carried out over the next week. Please remember however that as a community, we are always here to support you and your child(ren) and we are only an email or phone call away.

SCHOOLWORK UPDATE

We have had several emails since changing the work expectations at Key Stage 3, stating that from one perspective children are managing the work more effectively and on the other end of the spectrum there is now not enough work. We are working hard to get the balance right, but every child is different, and every household has differing pressures.

Next week, sees the 75th anniversary celebrations of VE Day. To recognise this moment in history, subjects will be uploading ***optional*** project-based work based around VE Day.

Last week, the Government launched their new online education resources to support students and schools. These are excellent additions to supplement schoolwork and provide additional support materials.

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/>

In order to obtain more information on how students are finding the workload, we would appreciate it if you complete an online survey. Please click the following link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=pHPvZM7DxkCu2EYYyLkV5_I0LK3Jh4ROpeTknAMBAMdUREIaQkpQSU43RjVCMDDUMDJYOE5MNk0zMS4u

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.

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 Year 10 children and young people who do not have access to a digital device during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

We have been working closely with Hertfordshire County Council, and once we have confirmation of the process for obtaining the devices, we will provide more information to identified families.

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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.

We have attached several new resources that may help to support parents and students during this current lockdown phase.

Lacey Update

Several students and parents have asked about the wellbeing and development of Lacey, our school dog. Miss Hull, who has reached a milestone birthday recently and has become Lady Hull, has kindly provided this update:

Life for Lacey in lock down has been very different to what most dogs are currently experiencing. I would assume that many animals are loving all the extra attention and time spent with their families. Lacey on the other hand is missing the day to day life of working in a school. We can't physically give her the love and attention on a daily basis that she receives from students and staff, so I have now developed a new shadow! One of her biggest challenges is not currently being able to see, as she is in desperate need of a groom. She will certainly look like a different dog when we return.

She was enjoying the recent beautiful weather and when she wasn't sunbathing, she learned to swim (I would have preferred if this was in the lovely clear river water that we have rather than the stagnant section she stumbled across). Each day she finds the brood of ducklings on our walk, they seem to be getting used to her and aren't so scared anymore.

Lacey's therapy training is currently on hold, but we are trying our best to make sure she remains the lovable puppy that she is.

We hope everyone is keeping safe and well and can't wait to see you all again soon.

Lacey and Lady Hull



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STUDENT AND PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

Hertfordshire Community Awards

The new **Hertfordshire Community awards** are due to take place at the Stevenage Leisure Centre on Friday 25th September and hope to see as many familiar faces as well as new faces to celebrate with us and the "pillars of our community".

We also understand the COVID-19 has undoubtedly touched on the hearts of the nation. Communities such as ours are pulling together, whether you are part of the front line services protecting the vulnerable, to delivering food to a neighbour who is in self isolation, making phone calls to those who have no one to speak to and so much more - We've been blown away with the amount of support from the Hertfordshire community and it's humbling to see everyone pulling together during this difficult time.

The community awards has always celebrated the "unsung Hero" whether it is someone who has devoted their time to volunteering, someone who has helped the local community or someone who has cared for others. These amazing people don't nominate themselves **YOU** do.

Categories are:

[Charity Champions](#) | [Carer of the Year](#) | [Teacher of the Year](#) | [Good Neighbour Award](#) | [Young Achiever](#) | [School of the Year](#) | [Service to the Community](#) | [Parent in a Million](#) | [Valiant Volunteer](#) | [Lifetime Achievement](#) | [Club of the Year \(Sports\)](#) | [Team of the Year \(Sports\)](#) | [Nurse / Care Worker of the Year](#)

Entries are now open until 5pm Friday, June 5th [click here](#) to enter now.

We look forward to welcoming you at Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre on Friday 25th September.

North Hertfordshire Museum reaches out to a new 'virtual' audience

North Hertfordshire Museum's doors may be temporarily closed to visitors, but it is now set to reach a new virtual audience via its newly launched You Tube channel.

Visitors to the channel can watch educational videos - recent uploads include interviews about North Herts Suffragettes, a detailed tour of the recent Rembrandt art exhibition and an in-depth non-gory family friendly look at how ancient Egyptians mummified their Pharaohs – using teddy bears to tell the story. It will also give unique insights and behind the scenes glimpses of life at the Museum. Click this [link](#) to access.

Open University Courses

If you do find that you have some spare time and would like to try something different, the Open University have lots of free online courses that you can access. The link is <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/>

If you scroll down the page, there is a subject link that will direct you to the courses related to that particular area. These are nationally recognised awards that you can add to university applications and CV's to make you 'stand out from the crowd'.

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