

BARNWELL SCHOOL PARENTAL UPDATE WEEK 7

9/5/2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We are one day away from the latest Government update, which hopefully will provide many of us with clarity on the next steps for society and especially education. 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 continued to contact students to make sure they are remaining safe and well. We have received some very positive feedback from many parents, carers and students and we have also been able to support individuals and families that have required advice and guidance. 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.

You will also have received the links to the school video this week. We would like to say a huge thank you to the staff that put the videos together, the students involved in the "We Are The Champions" montage and also to the parents for providing amazing feedback.

SCHOOLWORK UPDATE

We are continuing to work hard to get the balance right and this week there have been some outstanding submissions of additional project work linked to the VE day celebrations. Please be reassured that as a family, you can only do your best in these circumstances, every child is different, and every household has differing pressures.

Results of our schoolwork survey indicate that there has been a shift and for most, the amount of work is correct but some parents/carers feel there is not enough. We have fed this back to Heads of Faculty and they will continue to monitor the amount and quality of the work.

If you and your child(ren) feel they have completed all of their work, please contact teachers directly or guide them to the excellent online education resources that are there to support students and schools. These are in place 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/>

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

YEAR 8 OPTIONS PROCESS

Parents/Carers of Year 8 students will be receiving information about guided learning choices for some subjects beginning in September. If you do not receive the communication by the end of next week or require advice or guidance, please contact either Mr Patching (m.patching@barnwell.herts.sch.uk) or Mrs Collier (k.collier@barnwell.herts.sch.uk).

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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.

STEM Learning – How to engage your children at home

Professor Paul Howard-Jones, of Channel 4's The Secret Life of Four & Five Year Olds, links up with STEM Learning to share the best ways to engage kids learning from home. Parents are invited to submit their questions about how children learn at home to Paul Howard-Jones and we will upload video responses to cover as many of your questions as possible. Take a look at the first video: [Watch the video](#)

The OLLIE Foundation

Please find attached a wide range of FREE On-line Training Courses from the OLLIE Foundation about how to ensure a healthy well-being generally, especially in current circumstances, but also how to support young people and families who may, at present, be experiencing more serious mental health symptoms.

Schools and Families Advice Line (SFAL)

Please find attached information about the 'Schools and Families Advice Line' (SFAL), which is a new service established to provide emotional wellbeing advice and early help to children and young people and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Children and Young People (CYP)

Please find attached is a flyer for a CYP Hertfordshire's Young People's Coronavirus webinar which takes place on Thursday 14th May 2020 at 11.30am. This free LIVE webinar is available to 11-19s who are living or educated in Hertfordshire.

STUDENT AND PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

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