

Parent Newsletter 17 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families are all keeping safe, well and healthy during what can only be described as a very challenging time for us all.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for all the patience and support you have provided during the first two weeks of our school closure. Establishing good home working routines to ensure students are engaging with the work they have been set by their teachers is invaluable. We have also valued the feedback you have provided on home learning and continue to use this to develop and improve our approaches after the Easter break.

Monday 20 April marks the start of our Summer Term at Bohunt Worthing. Students will be expected to log on however they will not follow their usual timetabled lessons on this day. We have put together a pastoral package that all students will need to complete in its place. All the activities for the day including the timings are shared on your child's Tutor Group google classroom. This provides an opportunity for our tutors to email all tutees individually and check on their wellbeing, staff to meet and confirm plans and resources that will be covered by each year group this half of term, and staff to take part in some training to further improve aspects of our home learning provision. From Tuesday we resume our school timetable structure as before the holiday in regards to home learning.

During these challenging times it is important to recognise that everyone may feel a sense of disconnection. For parents, we will continue to communicate through our school newsletters, weekly challenges, our student website and our school twitter. For students; we encourage them to stay connected through dialogue with their tutor, subject teachers or our pastoral team who are available if they need any help or support.

Despite the challenges we are currently facing together, I would like to take this opportunity as I always do to recognise and celebrate some of the success we have had over the past few weeks. Over the Easter break we continued to support our key worker parents and students who have additional needs and will continue to do so this term. Our school community has come together so well in this time of need and in the holidays a small team of staff assembled 300 face masks which have been delivered to support our front line workers. We hope students attending school will be able to participate in this once more raw materials are received. We will be sending our Blog out during the first week with other celebrations and achievements to recognise.

I'd also like to thank all the students that have participated in our weekly 'challenge' activities, with some really wonderful entries having been sent in so far. Please do continue to encourage your child to participate in these activities, which are hopefully giving everyone a fun task to try out.

I recognise there continues to be a lot of anxiety around the cancellation of public exams. Last term Year 11 were sent a letter from Ofqual with more detailed information on the cancellation of exams and how they will receive final grades. Hopefully, this letter will help to clarify any questions you or the students have had. We have all been disappointed that the exams won't take place, but are working together to ensure it doesn't affect the students' learning or outcomes for next steps. There is further guidance about supporting Year 11 in their Post 16 choices in this document.

It has now been confirmed that school closures will extend for at least another 3 weeks. When it is safe to return we recognise that people's experiences over the lockdown period will have been very varied. We will want to deal sensitively with coming back together as a community by making sure we understand how

people feel and what they have been through. Staff at Bohunt Worthing miss the daily interactions we would normally have with our students and eagerly look forward to welcoming them back as soon as it is safe for us to do so.

Best wishes

Mr Whitehead

Home learning

Years 7-10

Provisions and expectations for years 7-10 remain the same as before the Easter break. Students will have access to their day's lessons by 08.50 every day and can complete their tasks throughout the day. Please be aware that teachers will only be available for online questions and answer during their timetabled lesson time.

Basic student expectations:

- Students follow their usual lesson timetable (work available from 08.50), with the exception of period 5-6 on Wednesdays for years 7 and 8
- Students are to submit their work at the end of the usual lesson time slot. Please note students can access the work after their lesson finishes. Work not submitted for Monday and Tuesday by 13.40 on Wednesday will be issued a missed remote lesson point. Work from Wednesday to Friday not submitted by 13.40 on Friday will also be issued a missed remote lesson point. **All points will be removed when students return to school and will not be on your child's record. This process gives us valuable information on help and support we might need to offer as we contact families of students who have missed a number of sessions.**
- Students should communicate directly with their subject teacher if they require support or feel they have been set an incorrect missed lesson point.

We are continuing to look at innovative ways to deliver content through remote learning and will be delivering online CPD to our staff on Monday to support this process. We are also looking at ways to engage students away from screens, and will be following this up with further information shortly.

Year 11

At this stage, Year 11 teachers will continue to set work, which I need you to encourage your child to complete. The reason why they continue to work at this time is important; that the gap in knowledge and understanding between GCSE and A Level/ BTEC is a significant one. In addition to this, through no fault of their own, they have lost two months of study and the rigour of being able to sit their GCSE examinations. We want to ensure that they do not start their Post 16 studies or any future employment at a disadvantage.

The school will be looking to adapt our home learning programme for our Year 11 students after the Easter break; offering additional careers-based activities, professional skills advice and pre-learning in liaison with colleges and schools for whatever students intend to do next.

For those that are keen to take actual exams, either in the autumn or next summer, it is very important for them to maintain a strong revision routine. Our teaching staff will continue to be available to students.

Pastoral Support and Student Wellbeing:

As we have already recognised there are many challenges facing families and young people during this time. Prior to Easter our Pastoral team were already working with a number of children to monitor their wellbeing. Post Easter we as a school want to check in with every member of the community and where we can offer additional support via increased contact with the school or signposting to various other support Avenues.

On Monday every student will be contacted by their form tutor via email as a means to check in and open a pastoral dialogue with the student. We will also be asking the students to complete a wellbeing survey on Monday 20th along with a wellbeing journal. The wellbeing journal created by the Nuffield Health provides information on how students can proactively manage not just their physical but mental health as well during their time away from school. The journal (see link below) also contains sheets that students can use to keep a record of how they are getting on.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1J4pN2xAV03fsSJbeLpVA95Z8bkYqUntU>

Other resources that have been offered to schools:



ChatHealth Messaging Service

Text your school nurse

During these unsettling times, as a parent of child aged between 5-19 years old you may be worried about your child's health and wellbeing and be unsure about how to get the help you need.

Our school nurses are still here to help - you can text them for confidential advice and support on a wide range of issues.

Parent/carers of a child aged 5-19 can send a text to:

07480 635424

We can help with all kinds of things like:

- Behaviour
- Continence
- Emotional health
- Self-harm
- Bullying
- Minor accidents and illnesses

Your ChatHealth messaging service is run by the Healthy Child Programme 5-19 School Nursing Service and is available from 0900 am to 4.30 pm Monday –Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate bounce-back to confirm we received your text. Texts will not be seen outside of normal working hours. If you need help before you hear back from us, contact your GP, NHS 111 or dial 999 if it is an emergency.