



Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

20th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: School Update

As we move into an extended period of school closure, we hope you managed to have a restful Easter break and we welcome you to our very first remote summer term! As it is impossible to second guess how and when anything will change, we are focussing our attention on ensuring that the best possible learning resources are available and accessible.

We have all had to adapt to new ways of working, so we wanted to start by saying what an amazing job you are doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time; this is not easy. It is definitely a strange and challenging time, so it is understandable if you and your child feel anxious and frustrated at the moment. We are here for you every step of the way if you need us as we work through this together.

So, if you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by email at enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk including your child's name and year group, or call 01234 342521.

Although school is open to take care of vulnerable children and the children of key workers, it is important to remember that we are all being told to stay at home wherever possible. We miss having the students in school, but we must continue to follow the government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe.

For this new term, teachers will continue to provide sufficient resources relevant to schemes of work to cover the curriculum time. All of the online learning resources have been and will continue to be provided by teachers through Google classrooms. Remember that Google services can be accessed on chromebooks, laptops, desk tops, tablets and mobile phones with internet access. There is a guide to help with this on the website, which can also be accessed at [Accessing google services from home](#).

Assignments and work continues to be submitted through the Google classrooms, or shared directly with teachers. Students can email their teachers in relation to the work set and to get feedback. However, please understand that staff are at home with their own families and may not be able to respond straight away. Below are some other useful online learning resources to explore, in addition to the previous resources shared:

- [DfE list of high quality resources](#) - the Department of Education has put together a very extensive list of online learning resources for primary and secondary learners.
- [BBC Education package](#) - today (Monday 20th April) the BBC launches its own TV and online learning package, with daily lessons posted every morning.
- [Oak National Academy](#) - a suite of 180 video lessons every week across a range of subjects will be launched today (Monday 20th April).

Biddenham Turn, Biddenham, Bedford, MK40 4AZ

Tel: 01234 342521

Fax: 01234 334530

Email: enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Website: biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Having listened to feedback, we will now aim to schedule all learning materials for 9.00am every morning, allowing students and parents to plan their day. The learning time has also been reduced, so that students are not overwhelmed with too much online learning. Do remind your child to take breaks away from screens as well, and also make time for having fun and connecting with friends and family.

Year 11 Students:

Today also marks the start of our 'transition curriculum' to help students progress from year 11 into year 12. As a result, tasks will no longer be set on old subject classrooms and students are only expected to complete transitional work moving forward. For each course a student chooses, there will be two assessed pieces of work (pass or fail). These assignments, alongside their GCSE grades will give them a place on their chosen Level 2/Level 3 course in September. This will support students with maintaining an academic standard throughout the next term and gives them a head start on the courses they wish to study from September.

As part of our transitional curriculum, this morning we also launched the Biddenham Graduate Diploma. The Biddenham Graduation Diploma is an award that students will gain by completing a range of online and independent learning opportunities. In order to achieve this award, they will need to complete all of the components from the 'Compulsory' section and a certain number of the components outlined in the 'Electives' section, leading to a Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum Diploma. A breakdown of the sections can be found on the Year 11 Google Classroom.

The Diploma components are designed to ensure that all students are ready for Post-16 progression either at Biddenham or elsewhere (whatever course of study or learning you aspire to be undertaking). Students are encouraged to create a Record of Achievement (E-Portfolio/Scrapbook) to document their work, which will be submitted in September. This is a real opportunity for them to demonstrate a level of determination and commitment towards their own personal and academic growth.

Year 13 Students:

For year 13 students we are providing a range of resources to support progression to further study, apprenticeships and the world of work. It is really important for students to remember to utilise these resources fully so that they are prepared for their next steps. Unifrog is our online platform through which students should choose a MOOC (online course) in their chosen field of study or work related learning demonstrating an enthusiasm and commitment to planning for their futures.

We would like to finish with a couple of links to some fun and useful activities with which our Biddenham family could get involved:

- [NHS Sing Along](#) - ex-students and staff singing to raise money for Bedford Hospital.
- [2.6 Challenge](#) - national initiative to raise money for charities supported by the London Marathon.
- [Biddenham 2.6 Challenge](#)

Whilst we cannot say yet when we will be able to open the school fully, be assured that we will continue doing our utmost to keep students learning and the school connected with our families.

Warm regards,



Mr D Bailey
Principal



Ms E Grylls
Head of School