



1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Re: School Update

As we are now into our second week of closure, we wanted to get in touch with our school community as we all adjust to this strange new world in which we find ourselves. Thank you so much for your continued support and understanding in helping the NHS, and protecting our own families, by keeping your children at home.

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. The government is also very clear that we should not meet others, even friends and family; so we need to make sure that our children are not outside the home or mixing with others during this time.

Whilst the advice and guidance is very clear, we understand that the reality of putting it into place, is for many of us really quite stressful. It is not easy to work from home, support relatives in self-isolation, look after children, stay active and keep healthy whilst worrying about how much academic progress our children are making. We just want to reassure you that whilst we are trying to provide user-friendly distance learning resources for Biddenham students, we are not expecting parents to take on the role of the teacher, in addition to everything else that they have to do. Schools across the country will be working together with the Department for Education to ensure that our young people are not disadvantaged by these unprecedented events; we are all in this together!

Through providing distance learning resources we are hoping to develop independent learning habits in our students that will be useful to all young people whatever age they are. Teachers are providing 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. 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](#)

Any problems with accessing work please email [enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk) including your child's name and year group.

Assignments and work can be submitted through the Google classrooms, or shared directly with teachers. We appreciate that students work at different paces and have varying levels of support they can access at home, so 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. Teachers are also getting used to new ways of working and for many of us trying to learn how to use new technologies effectively, so please do bear with us. Some other useful websites to explore are:

- [Educake](#) - Science
- [Tassomai](#) - Science, English, Maths
- [Seneca learning](#) - many subjects covered

- [BBC Bitesize KS3](#) - many subjects covered
- [BBC Bitesize GCSE](#) - many subjects covered

With students spending an increased amount of time accessing online resources and sites, we need to remember to support them in staying safe online. Here are some links to useful guidance and support for secondary school age children:

- [Thinkuknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

For students in years 9, 10 and 12 who have started GCSEs and A Levels/BTECs, work will be set that is part of the scheme of work for these qualifications. We would like students to try their best to complete the work set to the best of their ability. However, once we get back to school there will be plenty of opportunities to revisit learning, allowing students to get back on track with the curriculum. It is also important to remember that learning is not confined to school work. There are so many activities that can be undertaken; cooking a meal, singing, yoga, sharing your favourite music with your family, painting, colouring, reading, watching a documentary or a film and much more.

Finally, the Easter holidays were scheduled for the week beginning Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Over this period, teaching staff will only set the usual holiday homework, rather than trying to cover the full timetable as we have been doing. We will give further updates about how we will be working after Easter, as soon as we know. In the meantime, take the very best of care of yourselves and your families.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Bailey  
Principal



Ms E Grylls  
Head of School