



24th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Year 7 and 8 Remote Teaching

We hope that this letter finds you and your families well.

As you are probably aware, secondary schools have been tasked with considering how best to safely deliver some face-to-face contact with teachers, for years 10 and 12, from Monday 15th June. The government has stated the clear expectation that remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups and that the face-to-face contact should be in support of this. As a school we are working to develop our remote learning offer and would like to explore live lessons with year 7 and 8, as we are conscious that contact with teachers is very important in keeping young people motivated.

One of the key reasons for minimising the number of students in school at any one time is because older students generally travel further to school and are more likely to use public transport to travel to and from school. The latest government advice is to avoid public transport as far as possible and to walk or cycle instead to reduce the risk of the virus spreading. The government has also stated that the numbers of secondary students must also be limited because older students are more likely to have a wider group of social contacts outside of school. Taking this into account and through detailed consultation with our teaching staff, we have decided that the safest method for providing fact-to-face contact will be through offering live virtual lessons. We are planning a trial 'Live Session' via their Google Notices Classroom.

Students have already received an email informing them of the intent to trial this method of teaching in this fashion, following the success of year 12 live lessons being delivered.

At this stage we are not in the position to release a timetable of sessions, but following the trial live lesson, are aiming for a more structured approach in the last two weeks of the summer term.

Please find attached the [guidelines](#) on how to use Google Meet that will be sent to students via their notices classroom.

All students will be expected to take part in all of their timetabled lessons in order for us to support their learning during these exceptional circumstances. The trial session will be a chance for students and staff to reconnect with a sense of belonging and community. There will be opportunities to post questions before the session for us to answer together, along with a brief assembly with the head of year to support motivation and routines.

Year 8 Only

In a typical year at this time, we would also have been starting the preparation for GCSE introduction so it is really important to invite them to attend to refocus and see the importance of completing work set and communicating with staff.

If you have any concerns regarding your child being able to access the online lessons please contact emily.simpson@biddenham.beds.sch.uk soon as possible so that we can see if we can help in any way.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Simpson
Assistant Headteacher, Key Stage 3

Ms E Grylls
Head of School