



26th March 2021

Dear Year 10 families,

After a successful fortnight back at school I wanted to write to you to share our plans for the Year 10 cohort moving forward. Please click [here](#) for the Year 10 video message.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your continued support during the lockdown period. We are all aware of the difficulties of home schooling and the issues this raised - particularly with siblings across various year groups. However, the quality of the work produced by our Year 10s was excellent. The year group responded to their teachers' creative methods to engage them and I was delighted to see regular examples of the year groups commitment and hard work during this time. I have lost count of the amount of praise emails that came across all departments, but I know there were a lot!

I am very proud of the way that the year group have settled back into school over the past fortnight. The Covid testing period ran incredibly smoothly, and this would not have happened without the support of our students and their families. The return to face-to-face schooling has been almost seamless, and the students' focus and attitude to their lessons during this short period has been exactly what I would have wanted to see. It has been a pleasure to see the buzz returning to the classrooms again after so long away and it is fantastic to have had such a positive return.

Over the coming term we are committed to continuing to cover the curriculum for all students, and will be working with all groups to ensure that learning is reviewed, consolidated and remembered. Soon these Year Ten students will become Year Elevens, and I would like to ensure they end this academic year as solidly as possible. We will also be restarting many of our extra-curricular activities which everyone will have the chance to attend whether novice or experienced. Please see our website and google classrooms for further information.

After speaking to many of our Biddenham families during this period I know you were and are concerned about the academic progress and wellbeing of your children. I can assure you that I share these concerns and as a school we are ensuring that we will support your child to achieve their full potential, but also we will respond to their wellbeing needs as and when they arise. For some students, meeting their wellbeing needs will be a long term intervention but I want to reassure you that we have a range of support available to students to be able to do this. Day to day we have your child's tutor; the Year 10 pastoral support team - Miss Lewis and me; Mrs Speight, the schools Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator; Mrs Gray, our Sanctuary Manager; Mrs Mason, our EAL Co-Ordinator, Mr Ray, our Achievement & Resilience Centre Co-ordinator and Mrs Warburton, Deputy Headteacher - Inclusion and Safeguarding Lead.

As a school we also work with a range of external agencies and organisations which include but are not limited to:

Bedford Borough Early Help Team;
Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHs);
CHUMs (Mental Health and Wellbeing support);
Aquarius;
Kooth (Online Counselling and Support);
Bedford Open Door;
School Nursing Service.

As part of our return to school the year group have already undertaken some reflective work in tutor time about their lockdown experiences and we will continue to provide holistic support and reflection through the Essential Life Skills (ELS) provision in tutor time. Should you have any questions or concerns about your child's wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details below.

I would also take the opportunity to thank you for supporting the schools uniform policy on their return. The limited availability of 'high street' uniform outlets has meant that the majority of you have shopped online or used supermarkets to source the basic uniform pieces. If your child has grown out of any items, then the Easter break would be a good opportunity to obtain these items. Many companies are doing free returns, especially shoe outlets. I will ask that you do not purchase black trainers - these have often been marketed as a 'school shoes' but they do not align with our uniform policy. For details of the school's uniform policy and requirements, please see our website or consult your child's planner or their tutor.

Finally I wanted to pass on the contact details, should you need them, for your child's tutor who will be able to answer many of your queries.

Contact details:

10SZH - Miss Hussain: shannon.hussain@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
10DRG - Mr. Greenard: danny.greenard@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
10AP - Ms Paul: ashmina.paul@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
10DFB - Mr. Birkinshaw: dan.birkinshaw@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
10SW - Miss Wozniak: sarah.wozniak@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
10EVR - Miss Roberts: emily.roberts@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
10MAW - Mrs Ward: margaret.ward@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
10SDN/OB - Mr. Nyandemoh and Mr. Barnes: sahr.nyandemoh@biddenham.beds.sch.uk - olly.barnes@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
10CAM - Mrs. Mason: catherine.mason@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
SENDCo - Mrs. Latchman: emma.latchman@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
Assistant Head of Year 10 - Miss Lewis: amy.lewis@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
Head of Year 10 - Miss Lilley - issy.lilley-moncrieff@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

On behalf of the Year 10 pastoral team we continue to appreciate your support and engagement and we look forward to working with you and your child over the coming term.

Warm regards,

A. Lilley-Moncrieff

Miss A Lilley-Moncrieff
Head of Year 10