



Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

26th March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

With the return to school over the past two weeks and parents evening on Wednesday I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you with an update on this and the support that can be offered to the students. Please click [here](#) to view the Year 9 video message.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your continued support during the lockdown period. Many of you were in contact with any concerns, and we hope we alleviated these to the best of our ability. We are all aware of the difficulties of home schooling and the issues this raises. We understand that there were varied levels of engagement from students for a multitude of different reasons. However, the quality of the work which was produced by the students as individuals was fantastic. Miss Powell and I asked the students to send through work they were especially proud of and we were so pleased with what we saw. The work ranged from posters and presentations through to model volcanoes and videos of the student's dancing. The year group responded to their teacher's various methods to engage them in such a fantastic way and should be really proud of themselves.

Coming back into the classroom has enabled the students to reconnect with their friends and staff members. It has been lovely to see so many of them relishing their return. Some students may have been anxious to return, however most of the anxieties seem to be starting to settle after the return to their normal routines and timetables.

I am really pleased with the feedback I have received from parents evening and how engaged the students were in the process. I hope you feel you have received the information and reassurance that I know everyone is currently looking for with regards to your child's progress and next steps. If you were unable to attend parents' evening and would like to discuss your child's report please contact their tutor, using the information below, and they will be happy to assist you.

I am aware that many of you, as parents and carers, may have concerns around the wellbeing and mental health of your children. Please rest assured that we as a pastoral team share these concerns and as a school we are ensuring that we will support your child to not only 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 9 pastoral support team (Miss Powell and myself), Mrs Speight the schools Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator, Mrs Grey our Sanctuary Manager and Mr Ray our Resilience centre Co-ordinator.

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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 (CHAMs)
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.

We understand the importance of students being prepared to learn within their lessons, but also understand the difficulties that have been presented by schools opening before high street shops have done so. We ask that as soon as possible on the return from the Easter break that students are in full uniform and fully prepared with everything they need for their lessons. This includes their chromebooks, which should always be brought to school. Any technical faults can be reported to IT via the helpdesk email, then they can be repaired and returned as soon as possible. For details of the school's uniform policy and requirements, and suggested equipment lists, 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 should you have them.

9ALW: Miss Warden - amy.warden@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
9ARW: Miss Welstead - alex.welstead@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
9CAB: Mr Bowness - callum.bowness@biddenham.beds.sch.uk & Mrs Masud - sidra.masud@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
9CJ: Mrs Jones - carole.jones@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
9DJL: Mr Loveland - dave.loveland@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
9MAB: Mrs Browne - mary-ann.browne@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
9MNA: Miss Adjei - michelle.adjei@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
9SA: Miss Ali - sara.ali@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
Assistant Head of Year 9: Miss Powell - meredyth.powell@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
Head of Year 9: Mrs Stephenson - frances.stephenson@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Miss Powell and I continue to appreciate your support and engagement and we look forward to continuing to work with your child and yourselves over the rest of their time at Biddenham.

Yours faithfully,



Frances Stephenson
Head of Year 9