



THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD'S BLUECOAT SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Martin Henton

MNH/AHW
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Dear Parents & Carers,

As the vaccination programme gathers momentum we become more hopeful of opening the school to all students in the near future. Students are continuing to engage well in their online lessons and are gaining confidence in participating in learning tasks.

Monday's INSET day was very well utilised by staff, thank you for your support in moving this day forward to enable us to plan in more detail for remote learning.

We are encouraging both students and staff to make sure that they manage a healthy balance in screen time and activities away from the computer. Please emphasise to your children, that it is important to do this in every lesson and at breaktime and lunchtime.

After some system gremlins from the software company, we eventually ran our first virtual parent consultation yesterday for year 7 students. This, overall worked really well with 84% attendance and the company have promised to continue to improve their system. This adds a new string to our bow of available technology. Thank you for your patience as we have got to grips with this. It offers a number of benefits, in providing flexibility for parents in booking their own appointments and reducing the amount of travelling for everybody involved, which given the local flooding yesterday was a great help.

All students attending school with consent have now been tested twice with the lateral flow tests and staff have been tested for a second time this week. I am pleased to report that everyone has tested negative. This week has seen education in the news again with regard to COVID testing. The reporting of the change in the media seems to have caused some confusion by suggesting that the lateral flow tests have been removed ... they haven't. To clarify; any students that are new to the provision we are providing for vulnerable and critical worker students will still be tested twice when they first attend school, both tests are completed within three to five days of their start. Any students who are identified as close contacts to another student who has tested positive for COVID must now self-isolate at home for ten days as the government has 'paused' the serial testing over seven consecutive days as a precaution until more data from Public Health England is available. The second change is that staff who are working in school will now receive two tests a week instead of one.

Always Faithful with Christ

This week the government have launched a consultation process as to the best way forward to assess year 11 students as accurately as possible to award their GCSE grades. It is looking more promising that students will be able to demonstrate their learning through the year which is vital for them to have as much input into the final awarded grade. Students must now make sure that they are clear where their focus for improvements are following the grades from the mock examinations and do their absolute best to act on the support and guidance from their subject teachers. Please use this link for the consultation, so that you can be part of the best way forward.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021?fbclid=IwAR3YU0LZ-HpYcmOtuX5duHlyEZKkZDevqjpWi5ogyLww6NY8Fk3SGIRmRw8>

Please use the time over the weekend to have a good break and to stay as safe as possible.

Best wishes,



Martin Henton
Headteacher