

11th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all keeping safe and well under the new national situation with COVID. We have received a number of queries about various matters, so I am writing to provide some form of update for you as well as answer some frequently asked questions.

Students will have live lessons in accordance with their normal school timetables with teachers responsible for scheduling the correct number of live lessons each week, so if any student is uncertain, they should contact their teacher. Non-attendance will be monitored and followed up.

If there are any parental or student concerns about teaching, these should be communicated via Teams in the first instance to the individual teacher concerned.

There is an unfortunate possibility that some teachers may become unwell and unable to carry out live lessons over the coming weeks. We will do our best to let you know if this is the case, but please bear with us if we do not manage to do so and your child finds that their teacher is not there for a live lesson.

Mass Testing

We will continue to prepare for the COVID testing so we are in a position to run this initiative when schools begin to reopen. We will only be testing staff and pupils for whom we have written consent. Whether or not pupils take part in the testing will have no impact on their right to attend school and access learning.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LhD3baAsEEGpBmWzaL2mlzUTnYOwdNZFs5QmPp2J_09UMDE2NklzN0JYTjhTMVY2U1NYMkM3QU1CTi4u

[Fill | Consent form for COVID-19 testing in secondary schools - BCHS \(Pupils\)](#)

Introduction This consent form is for participation in tests designed to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases. Anyone experiencing symptoms should follow government guidelines to self-isolate, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test. Consent relates to the following groups of students/pupils and staff as follows:

- For pupils and students younger than 16 years - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.
- Pupils and students over 16 who are able to provide informed consent - can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- For any pupil or student who does not have the capacity to provide

informed consent - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing. • Staff will complete this form themselves.
forms.office.com

If your child has taken a test outside of school and it has returned positive, please ensure we are notified of the positive result and the date of the test. It is important we have this information as they should not be tested again within 90 days or it could continue to show positive even though your child is not infectious.

Year 8 Parents' Evening

Year 8 Parents' Evening has been temporarily postponed. The new dates proposed are 26th January and 2nd February and will be accessed via TEAMS. More information in regard to booking these appointments will be sent out shortly.

Exam week

As we are currently not in school exam week will be postponed until we return. Once we have more clarity over what is going on we will arrange a new date and communicate that with you. The revision booklets produced for each subject are available via the website so that students can still be working on revision and preparing for these assessments.

<https://www.bchs.essex.sch.uk/1697/revision-booklets>

[Revision Booklets - Brentwood County High School](#)

Brentwood County High School is a state-funded academy located in the town of Brentwood, Essex. The school receives support from and is a member of the Osborne Co-Operative Academies Trust and educate..

www.bchs.essex.sch.uk

Homework

As we said in the letter before Christmas we will no longer be using the SIMs app to make you aware of when homework is set and when it is due. Next week we will be sharing our new homework timetable with you so you are aware which days your child is set homework for each subject and when it should be submitted. All of the homework will be set as an assignment on Teams by your child's teacher following the homework timetable.

Remote learning

Mrs S Jones (sa.jones.bch@osborne.coop) is monitoring the situation regarding students' access to IT in the home. I would emphasise that a smartphone is not suitable for school work, except in an emergency, or to upload work. I know that some of the discussion in the media about data allowances has assumed that learning via phone is routine, but this is not

the case and we aim for better. Where there are obstacles to good student engagement, we will discuss them with parents and students and seek practical ways to remove them.

Pupils who are not able to access remote learning can have work packs sent in the post or emailed. Please email n.melton.bch@osborne.coop if you have not already notified us that your child requires this.

Additionally, I would like to make you aware that some online applications such as TEAMS can be accessed via play stations and Xbox (<https://twitter.com/BCHSupdates/status/1346848467541495810?s=20>).

We are aware that some pupils share devices at home so may not always complete the allocated work during the lesson hour. If your child is accessing the work outside the lesson, it is important they communicate this with their teacher.

Monitoring of learning

Please be aware that pupils should also be attending their form sessions, which run Monday – Thursday 8.30am – 9am via TEAMS. On a Friday students will have a presentation available to them. The reason we are doing this is because schools are expected to monitor pupil engagement of learning. We will use a number strategies including the following:

- Monitoring attendance to TEAMS lessons on line (during the lesson or outside the lesson time)
- Monitoring the work handed in or uploaded
- Teacher assessment based on known engagement
- Assessment pieces of work

Staff are able to monitor pupil engagement with their TEAMS sessions even when the pupil completes the work outside of the lesson time. All teachers will be reviewing pupil engagement and notifying Heads of Year. Staff may well phone or e-mail parents if they are concerned about their child's engagement with learning.

Year 11 and 13 Exams

While the actual A Levels and GCSEs have been cancelled in the Summer, we are expecting very rigorous and specific instructions from the Government about the grading process for our year 11 and 13 pupils. We know there will be a requirement for significant evidence of work, assessment and pupil engagement. It is therefore, vital that all year 11 and 13 pupils log on to their lessons and complete all the work set for them with a high degree of effort. The teachers will update pupils as soon as we have clear guidance from Ofqual but we do not want any of our pupils to lower their efforts in learning and then find out they do not have enough evidence to confirm their deserved grade.

Resources

Finally, I would like to make you aware of some additional information and excellent resources, which can help with home learning and well as a link for wellbeing:

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-year>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

<https://members.gcsepod.com/login>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help/youngminds-crisis-messenger/>
Osborne

We have tried not to bombard you with too many emails. Further communication about specific issues, such as exams and Parent Evenings, will be forthcoming.

Yours sincerely

Miss M Ryan
Headteacher