

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I also hope your child was able to enjoy a relaxing half term with such lovely weather and that you were able to enjoy part of this with them. The freedom for us to be outdoors most certainly came at a helpful time!

Following on from the combined Weymouth & Portland Principals' letter that you received yesterday, I am now in a position to confirm more details about the timelines for our Year 10 and Year 12 students to receive some face to face support in school to supplement their online learning. Over the holiday the government confirmed its position that these year groups should be the first to make a partial return to school and it was helpful to have some clarity that this should **not be before** Monday 15th June.

I can therefore confirm the following dates that these year groups will be offered some face to face support in school:

- Year 10: week beginning Monday 15th June.
- Year 12: week beginning Monday 22nd June.

Separate letters will be sent to these year groups to outline in much greater detail the offer that is being made, the different start and finish times, a change in routines including lunch, sanitising procedures and guidelines on arrival and registration. As I am sure you can imagine, any return to school with the caveat that students and staff must remain socially distanced at 2 metres apart, does not come without a significant change to 'normal' routines and has involved a great deal of planning.

- Year 10 will receive a letter from Mrs Warr tomorrow at 10.00am
- Year 12 will receive a letter from Mr Henman on Friday at 10.00am.

Both letters will contain a very short questionnaire to establish whether or not you intend to send your child back to school at this time. Having a clearer idea on numbers will enable us to make further changes if necessary. I would be very grateful if Year 10 parents could complete these by Friday 5th June and Year 12 by Monday 8th June. I understand that you need to look at the details of the offer being made and consider it carefully before you can make that decision.

I also understand that the government's decision to instruct a wider opening of schools is one that divides opinion. I therefore want to make it very clear that the decision to send your child back to school is very much yours. The decision that you make will be respected either way. There will be no punitive action taken against any student or family that decides not to take up the offer of in-school face to face support at this time.

That said we have worked hard to create an offer that takes on board the advice from the Department for Education. It is an offer that I have been working on with colleagues for many weeks as we have been anticipating some of the 'conditions' that would have to be put in place. You may have seen in the media that the process of schools opening more widely has been strongly contested by national trade unions. I am pleased to say that our plans for Budmouth have been shared openly with both teaching and support staff trade union representatives and they are fully supportive of the risk assessment processes we have undertaken and the offer that is being made. I would like to thank them for engaging in the process in such a constructive way. As you would expect, the safety of students and staff has been at the centre of our plans.

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Whilst the separate letters contain greater detail, some of the key measures include:

- Class sizes capped at 8 in 'normal' classrooms.
- Students remaining in the same classroom for the duration of each day.
- Staggered arrival and departure times for students.
- Lunch (if required) being delivered to the teaching room.
- Outdoor breaks being taken in the same group of 8 in a designated area and supervised by a member of staff to ensure social distancing.
- Sanitising procedures in place on arrival, after breaks and at the end of each day.
- One way walking systems, indoors and outdoors.
- Enhanced cleaning taking place both during the day and after school.
- No more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the year group in school on any one day.

What this means for Year 10 is that they will be offered one day in school per week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday) plus one additional Friday date between now and the end of term. The weekly offer will include three sessions:

- 80 minute Maths lesson taught by a specialist.
- 80 minute English lesson taught by a specialist.
- 80 minute supervised session completing an assessment activity in an 'Option' GCSE subject. This will help our staff to identify gaps in learning during the period of closure.
- On the additional Friday date that the student will be invited to attend, the day will comprise of a full day of Science face to face support.
- Year 10 will still receive online learning but this will be adapted taking into account the face to face in school support.

For Year 12 the offer is more straightforward:

- Students studying A Levels will receive a two hour lesson per week, in each subject they are studying. That is 6 hours per week for most students.
- Students following a vocational programme (Sport, Art, Business, Health & Social Care) will also receive 6 hours of lessons per week.
- Mr Henman's letter will confirm this in greater detail.

I hope that this offer of in-school support is something that the students will be able to take advantage of. At the current time the Department of Education has not made any announcements concerning any possible changes in how these year groups will be assessed next summer e.g. less course content, fewer exams, more choice of questions on exam papers or even some centre assessment. I would certainly welcome some clarification on this given the length of the period of closure and the fact that a return to school is only a partial one. In the meantime, we will continue to prepare our students the best that we can.

### **Years 7, 8 and 9**

At the present time, Years 7, 8 and 9 will carry on with their learning from home. Our staff will set work using the new timetable that Mr Cavill sent out last term. I would ask everyone to bear in mind that as staff will now be back in school to support Years 10 and 12, it will make answering questions online and providing immediate feedback more difficult. Thank you for your understanding with this. I know how difficult it is for younger students to remain motivated during such a long time away from school and when their GCSE exams are so far away. Thank you for all that you are doing to help keep them focussed during these times. If the process of 'home-schooling' has inspired any parents to consider a career switch to teaching, please do get in touch and we can point you in the right direction!

### **Years 11 and 13**

It does seem strange that these students should now have been in the middle of completing their final exams. We are in the final process of moderating the 'Centre Assessment Grade' for each student in every subject they were studying before these are submitted to the exam boards, who will then determine the final grades. I would like to thank Mrs Ford (Senior Exams Officer) and Mr Hudson for all their hard work in coordinating this. Year 13 can now enjoy their 'summer holiday' and Mr Henman will be writing separately to them. Mr Bartlett wrote to Year 11 just before half term with the sad news that the Prom had to be postponed. We have finished setting work for their GCSE learning; however the students who are staying with us in the 6th Form will now begin preparatory work for next year's courses. They are going to make a really good head start and new Google Classrooms have been created for this.

### **Other students in school**

The return of Years 10 and 12 does not change the offer of in-school support to those students who have been coming in throughout the national closure. Children of critical workers, children with an EHCP and other 'vulnerable students' will continue to be offered daily support in school. We have kept this going ever since the closure, through both holiday periods and on 3 Bank Holidays. We could not have done this without a team of brilliant volunteers. If your child is entitled to this support and you want them to take it up, please contact their Head of School in the first instance as we need to be prepared and make the appropriate provision for them. Students cannot just turn up without notification. As the number of students taking up this offer has increased, we are now using three separate areas of the school to keep them in small safe groups and ensure social distancing. Please note that from **Monday 15th June** these students will need to be in partial uniform but they do not need to wear their blazer, tie or jumper.

### **Covid 19 Home School Agreement**

As we are now planning to have a greater number of staff and students on site we have had to create clear guidelines about different aspects of day to day practice, to help keep everyone safe, which is a very important part of our overall risk assessment. With that in mind, I would like to draw your attention to the Agreement that is attached to this letter. If you have a child who is going to be coming into school, then I would be grateful if you could read this with them and discuss what it means. Whilst certain elements of our personal freedom are being eased by the government now we have moved into Phase 2 of lockdown restrictions, it is still important for us all to remember the very real and significant threat that Covid 19 poses. Sadly, some members of the Budmouth Academy community have lost loved ones to this disease. Students will only be able to come onto the site if they respect this very specific Agreement. Please note that some of these points refer to matters that will be out of staff control. If students from different households arrive in the same car, then they would not be permitted to attend. If students arrive in bigger groupings and not socially distanced, they would not be allowed into school. If students are found to be breaking other aspects of national guidance outside of school e.g. socialising in groups of greater than six and not being socially distanced, then they would not be permitted to attend. Thank you for understanding that only by respecting the conditions of this Agreement would I be able to keep other students and staff safe.

### **Mrs White and the Oak National Academy!**

A number of parents have been in touch to say how helpful they have found the 'Oak National Academy' lessons. Some of our staff are incorporating them into their own work setting. We have already advised that if any students are short of work, want a further challenge, or even a change of face, then these lessons are more than worth a look. This government run 'virtual school' handpicked some of the very best staff to plan and deliver a suitable curriculum. I take my hat off to all those staff who have had the courage to broadcast themselves to the nation! I am therefore extremely proud to announce that our very own Mrs White has been asked to join this national team and is now setting work for Citizenship. She has given up a significant amount of time to do this and on behalf of students nationally I would like to thank her. You can see her first lesson here:

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/year-08/citizenship-year-08#subjects>

### **And finally...**

The final half term of 2019/20 is seven weeks long and, like you, I am hoping that as the weeks unfold we might find ourselves to be in a much clearer position of knowing when a more 'normal' school experience might return. '*Do you think they will all be back in September?*' is a question that I have been asked by many parents, friends and family. My answer is the same every time: '*I certainly hope so*'. We are making all the usual plans and hope that the national progress in defeating the threat of Covid 19 will enable this to happen. As ever, I promise to keep you informed of any developments along the way.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



David Herbert

Att:

## **Budmouth Academy COVID 19 Home-School Agreement**

In order to protect students, staff and parents/carers during the current pandemic, we have created some additional expectations for students and parents/carers of our Academy. These will apply in addition to our normal expectations, until we have official advice that the virus is no longer a risk to the country's health.

- Students displaying symptoms of COVID 19 or who live in a household where someone is displaying symptoms **MUST NOT** attend the Academy. In these circumstances, national guidance must be followed in terms of self-isolating. Individuals displaying symptoms must self isolate for 7 days and everyone else in the household for 14 days. Symptoms of being unwell include showing signs of a raised temperature, fever, a new continuous cough or loss of sense of smell.
- To stop the spread of infection, parents/carers will not be able to enter the Academy site. Should you wish to speak to a member of staff, please make an appointment by contacting the Academy Reception. A telephone call will then be arranged in order for you to speak to the member of staff.
- Students will be expected to be in Academy uniform, although ties, blazers and jumpers do not need to be worn.
- Students do not have to wear facial coverings, however they can, if they wish to, wear a face mask.

### **Arrival to and leaving the Academy:**

- Students must arrive on the Academy site at their allotted time only.
- On arrival at the Academy site, students must head straight to the playground outside the DT Block, and use the hand sanitiser available before standing on their allocated 'spot'. This is to ensure that we can maintain a 2 metre distance between students.
- The students' teacher will then lead their class into the Hub, via a specific entrance where they will then also be required to use the hand sanitiser in their allocated classroom. Students must follow their teacher, maintaining the 2 metre distance, to their classroom and sit in their allocated seat.

### **During the Day:**

- On arrival to and leaving the classroom, students must use hand sanitiser and this can also be used on a regular basis, at the teacher's direction.
- During lessons, each student will have their own desk and will be distanced 2 metres from their nearest neighbour. They must not leave their desk without permission in order to maintain appropriate distancing.
- Students must sit in the pre prepared seating plan as resources, books, work etc. will be set out prior to students entering the classroom.
- Students must bring their own stationery equipment as described in our Behaviour for Learning Policy.
- Students will not mix with students from other groups whilst in the Academy.
- Students will receive a mixture of taught lessons and periods of supervised, independent study and assessment.
- When moving around the Academy, students must follow the specifically designated routes and must remain 2 metres away from other students (guided by markings on the floor).
- If a student needs the toilet during a lesson, they will be taken by a member of staff to use the toilet along their allocated teaching corridor only.
- Students can bring their own water on site. They will have the opportunity to fill these up; however they will not be able to drink directly from the water fountains.
- If a student feels unwell during the school day, they will be accompanied to the medical area where a parent/carer will be contacted and asked to pick them up.

### **Break and lunch time:**

- Students must use their allocated outdoor space only.
- At the end of break and lunch time, students must again follow the line-up process as requested at the start of the day.

Whilst in the Academy, normal expectations must be adhered to. Students must comply with staff expectations at all times so that staff can keep them safe. Any student who refuses to comply with the reasonable requests of staff, given the current extraordinary circumstances, will not be allowed to attend the Academy until it is fully reopened and will be expected to work from home with their parents'/carers' supervision. In these circumstances a member of staff will contact the parent/carer to inform them of this decision.

Students are also expected to observe Government guidance regarding social distancing on the way to and from the Academy and outside of Academy hours. Where we have evidence that this guidance is not being followed, parents/carers will be contacted. In such instances the Academy will prioritise the safety of staff and students in any decision made. The latest national guidance for parents and carers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june#what-if-my-child-is-eligible-but-has-siblings-who-are-not>