

5th January 2021

Dear Parent and Carer

As I am sure you are already aware, last night the government announced that all schools must close to the majority of pupils with immediate effect. As a consequence, **Budmouth Academy will close until February Half Term** in the first instance. In recent days, we have been making comprehensive plans to carry out the mass testing of all students and staff, so this announcement of closure has come as a real surprise. I am aware there is a lot of detail in this letter and there will still be some unanswered questions. At this stage, however, I wanted to share all of the most important details that we have.

Budmouth will remain open to provide care for the children of key workers and for vulnerable children, which includes those children who have a social worker or an Education Health Care Plan. You can find out if your occupation makes you eligible for a place by going onto the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We had already taken bookings for this week for those children needing supervision and if you would like to book for future dates, you can do so using the following Google Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLErYZF-WbLE8mNks0DHRyEVz6EjrbCwxDKy-nhFX-wLiY1g/viewform>

As the timings of the current school day vary for different year groups, we have decided to move to one common day for these students. Therefore, from Thursday 7th January the day will start at 8.45am and finish at 2.45pm. Years 7 and 8 students must report to the Resources Centre and all other year groups to the Student Support Centre. We are not able to run our before and after school 'wraparound' club at this time. From Thursday 7th January students will not be required to wear their uniform. The students in school will be supervised completing the same online work as the students in their classes who are at home. As soon as we have all of the necessary equipment, we will be implementing the testing programme for all students and staff who will be in school. Please remember that consent has to be given via the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSffU4MwwARpsgj9kpiIMCkxSN1YtWxqjzpuBr7xZsq2qhPug/viewform>

I would ask you to bear in mind the very small amount of notice we have been given for this significant change. At the end of this letter is an **initial schedule of work** that we will use to keep the children on track and engaged in their learning the best we can. Mr Cavill will review this after the first two weeks of the 'lockdown' have passed. In the first three days of this week, staff are also undergoing training in new software and programmes that will enable them to provide a mixture of some pre-recorded teaching as well as some 'live stream' feedback, alongside the tasks that students will be expected to complete in Google Classroom. If your child is having any difficulties in accessing work I would ask you to make contact with their Tutor or Head of School in the first instance. Please keep an eye on the website (Parents' Information tab) for some 'How To' videos in relation to Google Classroom that we will upload in the coming days.

Last night's announcement did say that exams would not take place '*as normal*' this summer and that alternative arrangements will be put in place. We will obviously keep a very close eye on this and share any further detail as soon as we get it. In the meantime, it is important that all year groups engage with their studies to the best of their ability. We all very much hope that this closure will be shorter than the Spring and Summer Term of 2020. **We will also be seeking immediate clarification about the external 6th Form Vocational exams that were due to take place over the next three weeks.** Mr Henman will use Google Classroom to communicate directly with the students on this matter.

We have already been contacted by students in exam year groups who would like to collect some important books and folders. We have to balance this request with the school closure and have, therefore, set aside the following days for Years 10, 11 and 6th Form. Students should report to the front of the Hub at 9.30am or 1.00pm on the allocated day and they will be supervised in how to do this safely.

Thursday 7th January	6th Form
Friday 8th January	Year 11
Monday 11th January	Year 10
Tuesday 12th January	6th Form
Wednesday 13th January	Year 11
Thursday 14th January	Year 10

It is important that this work is kept safely at home and should there be a need for it to be returned to school to support assessments we will provide you with details for this process. If there is something absolutely essential that a student in any other year group needs to collect, or have delivered, then please contact your Head of School in the first instance. Thank you.

This decision to close schools has been taken by the government due to the serious concern about the spread of Covid and the pressure this is placing on hospitals. In light of this, we would urge you to follow the latest government advice regarding the virus, which can be found on the government's website www.gov.uk/coronavirus to help keep you and your family safe. It is also very important that the students know and understand exactly what they can and cannot do under the new 'lockdown' restrictions. www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home.

During the last period of national closure the government provided a voucher scheme for families in receipt of Free School Meals. We are waiting to hear if this will be available during this half term. In the meantime, we can supply a sandwich/baguette service and this can be ordered by using the following link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd_iiQ_V_oHkwOgRNvxRbk3BOHCNe303QCaQCdQiCa8At2wlg/viewform

It is obviously very unfortunate that at a time when speedy and effective communication is needed the most, our main IT server has broken! It has been sent away for what we hope will be an off site repair. While our email 'In Touch' system is out of action, we continue to place all letters on the website and will alert you to them via Google Classroom notifications and Facebook. We are also investigating whether our new Parents' Evening booking system has the ability to send a message alerting parents to a letter. Hopefully 'In Touch' will be operational soon. If you are in any doubt please do check our website (Parents' Information, Parent Letters) for the latest communications. Please note that at this stage our upcoming Year 11 Parents' Evening on 12th January will go ahead as planned. We also intend to hold our Year 8 Parents' Evening, as scheduled, on 28th January - further details to follow.

I do hope that this extremely difficult period of time will come to an end soon. We are aware that this lockdown may have significant implications for all of us, in our work and family lives. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is support you might need and we will do our best to help. In the meantime, we will do all that we can to provide supervision for those who are eligible and to keep the work coming and communicating with those who are at home.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation during this difficult time. During the last period of closure your support for the work that our teachers were doing from home (including looking after their own children in many cases) was very much appreciated by them. I am sure that between us we will be able to get this through this next challenge as well.

Yours sincerely

David Herbert

Schedule of Google Classroom online work setting

2 Week Schedule For KS3 - Year 7 - 9		
Work to be set with 1 week deadlines on the following days		
Monday	English, Geography, Sport, Art	<p>Expected study time over 2 weeks:</p> <p>English, Maths, Science – 6 hrs each</p> <p>Geography, History, MFL, PArts, DT/ICT 4 hrs each</p> <p>Art 2 hrs</p> <p>Sport, RS, PSCS – 2 hrs each</p>
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Maths, History, DT/ICT, RS	
Thursday		
Friday	Science, MFL, PArts	
Monday	English, Geography, Sport, Art	
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Maths, History, DT/ICT, PSCS	
Thursday		
Friday	Science, MFL, PArts	

Schedule of Google Classroom online work setting continued:

2 Week Schedule For KS4 - Year 10 -11		
Work to be set with 1 week deadlines on the following days		
Monday	Maths, History, Attenborough Options, RS	<p>Expected study time over 2 weeks:</p> <p>English, Maths, Science – 6 hrs each</p> <p>Geography/History and other option subjects 4 hrs each</p> <p>Core Sport - 1 hr</p> <p>PSCS – 1 hr</p>
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Science, Turing & Hawking Options	
Thursday		
Friday	English, Geography, Core Sport, Shelley Options	
Monday	Maths, History, Attenborough Options, PSCS	
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Science, Turing & Hawking Options	
Thursday		
Friday	English, Geography, Core Sport, Shelley Options	

2 week schedule for Key Stage 5 -	Year 12: 8 hours of work per Option subject
Years 12 and 13	Year 13: 8 hours of work per Option subject