



The Bolsover School

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Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing with an update on school, and how we are supporting the nation's efforts to support critical workers, contain the spread and manage the impact of the outbreak of COVID - 19.

Firstly, once again thank you to you. I am extremely grateful to our families who have heeded the advice and guidance from the government to keep children at home. Throughout the Easter holidays the school has remained open for a small number of critical workers' children and vulnerable young people. Numbers of children in school has been low; those in school have been completing recreational activities with the different staff on duty across the 2-week period.

I am indebted to our brave and committed staff who have volunteered to come into school to work during their Easter break to work with these young people. They sacrificed their own time and safety to work in school to ensure that the students who need us the most have been cared for.

Students in school have continued to be subjected to the necessary social distancing routines and the hygiene protocols which continue to be regimented and strict. They have responded in a mature and responsible manner and have been great ambassadors for the school and their families.

I hope that you have all managed to have a restful Easter break away from supporting your children with their studies and that you have made the most of the beautiful weather that we have had in recent weeks.

It has definitely been a strange and challenging time, so it is understandable if you and your child feel anxious and frustrated at the moment. As a school we are here for you every step of the way and I would like you to remember that if you have any concerns about helping your child learn, or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by contacting your child's Subject Teacher, Form Tutor or Head of House.



Home Learning

The home learning routines which were established prior to the Easter holidays will continue for a minimum of the next 3 weeks, this is until we receive further guidance from the government. We hope that the home learning routines through Show My Homework and regular email communication is now becoming part of your child's daily routine?

Show My Homework is moving to become Satchel One - a new app is due to be launched any day. I am assured that this will not have any impact on your child and their way of working; other than a new name and icon for them to click onto access their work.

If students are experiencing problems with accessing Show My Homework they should email Mr Pridmore, Deputy Headteacher, jpridmore@bolsover.derbyshire.sch.uk

For more information on Show My Homework please see the attached guide.

We recognise that these are challenging times for many families, dealing with the pressures of social isolation and juggling working from home, whilst trying to manage and support children with their learning. In order to provide further support and guidance we have identified below some practical advice to try and make home learning as effective as possible (see attached document).

The government have also launched to new online learning resources this week:

<https://www.thenational.academy>

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

Either of these maybe something that you could look to include in your daily routine. Staff at the school may look to incorporate these resources into the work they are setting in the coming weeks.

This week also see the launch of the school's new YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTi0Ki1qFYILW3jK8lGr7pw>

Our aim is for staff to begin producing short video clips and "how to" guides in order to help students with the work that has been set for them. As the weeks go by I am sure this will become a really useful resource.

GCSE Qualifications

The school continues to follow The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) guidance in relation to submitting Centre Assessed Grades for all Year 11 students. This is something that staff and senior leaders will continue working on over the coming weeks - I please ask that you do not make contact with your teachers asking for these grades, as sharing these grades is not possible. Once we have further clarification on when the grades will be published, we will write to you explaining all of the necessary processes. If you are receiving

requests from colleges or sixth forms, then please forward these requests directly to me mhall1@bolsover.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Free School Meals

As a school we have opted into the government backed scheme for FSM vouchers using Edenred. I know that over the Easter holiday Mrs Hayes has written to all eligible families. If anyone has any queries about this then please can you contact Mrs Hayes directly lhayes@bolsover.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Supporting the NHS

I am sure that you will remember prior to the Easter holidays, I informed you that the school had donated over 150 pairs of goggles from the Science and Technology departments to the Royal Hospital in Chesterfield, along with 400 pairs of latex gloves. In addition to this, Miss Whaplington (New Teacher of Technology) has been in school over the Easter holidays, embarking on a project to produce approximately 500 face masks – these will be donated to the NHS and local care homes; helping to protect the heroes working in these establishments. Please keep an eye out on the school's social media accounts for pictures and video footage of the making of the face masks.

Mr Barnes (Science Technician) has volunteered to work in a mortuary in Coventry over the coming weeks, this is something that Mr Barnes used to do prior to joining the school, therefore, it was a natural step for him to be able to use his skills to help the NHS in their time of need. We wish him the very best of luck and hope that he stays safe and healthy. Miss Cartwright and Mr Blair have both put their names forward to be NHS volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all 3 members of staff for their commitment to supporting the NHS.

I have also included an information guide to provide you with advice in relation to Covid 19 and keeping your family safe.

Obviously, the school is responding to changes on a daily basis. Please continue to check texts, emails, the school website and social media sites for messages and updates from school.

Serving our wonderfully rich and diverse community is a privilege that the school and its staff take seriously.

I wish you all good health for the near future and I will endeavour to be in contact again with you shortly with further updates as I have more information.

Yours faithfully



Mr Hall
Head of School