



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

London Road
Buckingham
MK18 1AT

Tel: 01280 812206

Fax: 01280 822525

Email: office@buckinghamschool.org

Website: www.buckinghamschool.org

Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

24 March 2020

Dear Year 7,

I wanted to give you an update with whatever information and reassurances I can regarding the daily changes that are occurring in the education system that inevitably are having a direct impact on you.

I am extremely proud of the way you are responding and adapting to the change, as evidenced by the way you conducted yourselves on the last three days of lessons in School last week and how many of you have already been accessing your Google Classrooms to keep up to date with work. Since joining The Buckingham School in September, you have made an incredible start to your learning, showcasing how talented and hardworking you all truly are. Whilst I appreciate that GCSEs must still seem a long way off to you, it is the steps that you endeavour to take now, throughout this period of change, that will help set out the path for you to follow for your remaining years of study. Please know that as a School, we are committed more than ever to helping support you throughout this time, in whatever ways we can.

Over the coming weeks, you will need to continue working closely with your teachers; keeping in touch with your form tutors and peers, checking Google Classroom regularly where possible and completing as much work assigned as you can; be that online or paper copies of it. It is by you completing this work that we will be better able to fill in the gaps in your learning more fully when we all return to normal lessons. While it may seem overwhelming at present to try to keep up with everything, please be patient with us as this is new territory for teachers as well as all of you. There are instances where we are still striving to get the quantity and pitch correct for each group but I am sure that this will come with time. We just ask that you do your best to complete what work you can in the time frames of our lessons so that we can continue to work on improving our own delivery system to you.

You will be expected to have contact with your form tutor each week so we can review how things are going for you and we will be using your feedback to further improve aspects of remote working for you. This is a unique situation for us all and we will be using your feedback to develop our best practice. Please make sure that you have the Google Classroom code for your form group so you can stay in touch with your peers and friends.

It is important to remember this is a national situation, affecting thousands of students across the country and the Government has stressed that students will not be disadvantaged. More guidance will come out over the coming days and weeks. We will communicate with you regularly. Keep to your routines and follow your online timetable as if you were in school as best you can. I appreciate that this may be difficult to achieve, but please do your best to work with us and keep to as great a sense of normalcy as possible under the circumstances.

If you are in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding, please contact Mrs Bones via email, at kbones@buckinghamschool.org, regarding any queries you have.

The Student First team will remain as ever, supportive of your wellbeing needs. If you have any concerns or issues that arise you can contact your form tutor, Mrs Goodger (Assistant Head of Year) or myself (Head of Year). If you receive support from the Student First team this will continue remotely and you will have been contacted about how this will work to support your needs. If you have been absent and have not spoken to staff you would usually check in with, please make contact with them.

The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to Mrs K Bones at kbones@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.



There are some practical things you can do to ease worries or concerns you may have about the Coronavirus. Social media can portray a skewed and ill-informed version of the situation. Go to sources you know are trustworthy and ignore misinformation, rumours or fake news.

Look after your mental health. With all of the misinformation and panic that can be experienced, it's important to look after yourself. If you feel you are becoming overwhelmed or worrying about what is going on, talk to a member of your family or a friend. Talking about things WILL make it better.

Groups that can offer you some support should you need it.

- www.kooth.com - Free, safe and anonymous online counselling and support
- The Samaritans - Phone 116 123
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51873799> - Good advice from the BBC

Continue to be kind and look after people who may need your help. Make time listening and talking to people who you think might be feeling low. There may be people within your wider community that you can help and support.

I also just wanted to say how proud I am to be your Head of Year. Myself and my colleagues work hard to ensure the best for every single one of you and not being able to see you daily is really difficult.

I apologise for not being able to say goodbye to you in person on Friday, but I had to travel home to Scotland. There is a lot of uncertainty in the world just now and without a school return date, I wanted to wish you all the best for the coming weeks.

The past 7 months have flown by and it has been a pleasure getting to know each and every one of you. So much can happen in 7 months, and it is important to take the time to reflect and understand, just how far you have all come. You are all talented individuals and I have seen each of you grow from my primary school visits in April, to the transition days in July, your first day of secondary school in September and now today, almost a year on since I first met you. The reason I love my job is because of you, Year 7. You brighten up my day, your achievements make me so proud and I can honestly not wait to see you progress through the years at The Buckingham School.

I will continue to work with you all very closely to ensure you achieve above and beyond your potential. You are all amazing, and I know this time away from school will only bring us closer together as a Year Group and as a family. Please keep in contact with me via email, let me know what you are getting up to, let me know any funny stories that happen and most importantly, email me at any time if you need me for anything, no matter how big or how small it may seem. I take great pride in my year group and will continue to work hard for you all. You are all a massive part of my life (my kids) and it is about you continuing to learn, even though you may not be in school each day.

Stay safe and healthy, listen to what your being told and most importantly, remember to support those around you. I will miss you all over the next few weeks and I cannot wait to see you!

As always if you have any queries or issues, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Mrs Goodger or your form tutor. We will complete the next stretch of time together, following Government advice each step of the way and I look forward to working through this with you all.

With my very best wishes,

Miss C Collie

Head of Year 7

ccollie@buckinghamsschool.org

The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to Mrs K Bones at kbones@buckinghamsschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.

