



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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24 March 2020

Dear Year 10,

We are writing to you to update you as best as we can with regards to the recent changes that have occurred in the education system, which are inevitably having a direct impact on you. We hope you have adjusted well to working from home – we have already received some very positive reports with how you have been engaging with your studies.

I am overwhelmed with pride in the way you are responding and adapting to change. When you joined The Buckingham School we made a commitment to each other to ensure that you leave us with the best grades you could achieve - we are committed more than ever to fulfil this promise. We must not let this difficult period in time affect this future goal.

Over the coming weeks, you will need to continue working closely with your teachers; working on coursework, completing Google Classroom tasks, assessments etc. Please demonstrate your integrity and resilience in working through the issues this situation has presented us with. 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 your 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.

As we continue to navigate ourselves towards remote teaching and learning, we as a School will be working tirelessly to ensure that all the opportunities you have volunteered for and organised yourself will not go unrecognised. We already have ideas on how we can help reflect your individual character, knowledge and skills in a professional format, to present to future employers and education settings to enable them to fully appreciate your strengths and how you would be an asset to their corporation(s).

The School has been highly commended in the recent Ofsted Inspection; they hold both you and your teachers in very high regard. We have a great track record of achievement for our students. The School is stronger than ever. This will all count in your favour.

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

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.



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 email Mrs Bones 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, 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.

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.

As always if you have any queries or issues, please do not hesitate to contact myself or your form tutor. We will complete this challenging period of time together as a team, following government advice each step of the way – we look forward to working through this with you all.

With my very best wishes,

Mr A Minns

Head of Year 10

aminns@buckinghamsschool.org

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