



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

03 April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Distance Learning Post-Easter

At the end of our first fortnight of School closure, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone in our community for your part in making distance learning for The Buckingham School work as successfully as possible. We really have all played our part in trying to ensure our students continue to be challenged, enjoy what they are doing and achieve.

Mr McGinnes and myself have both previously expressed our gratitude for the enormous amount of feedback we have received. The positive, the negative and the constructive feedback have allowed us to modify, adapt and scrap some of our practices in our pursuit of getting it right. We have also sought feedback from our staff as they continue to work in a very different way to which they are accustomed.

With this feedback, we have put together a plan for the post-Easter period, which I have set out below. This plan has been formalised with the best interests of all members of our community at heart.

- Years 7 and 8
Students in Years 7 and 8 will be given an independent learning grid, which they will need to select different tasks from, to be completed throughout the day. The tasks are repeatable and in some instances can also be adapted to different subjects. We will also be providing subject-specific task grids that students can select activities from on Google Classrooms. Students will need to monitor the ticks they are accumulating to ensure they are not completing the same activities time and time again.

The Year 7 and 8 independent learning grid is available to download at our website here:
<https://www.buckinghamschool.org/page/?title=Distance+Learning+Resources&pid=304>

- Years 9, 10 and 12
Students in Years 9, 10 and 12 will be given one task per week for each of their subjects to continue their education in those areas. These tasks will be provided on Google Classroom. Alongside this, teachers will make themselves available for questions and queries on Google Meet at a time when students would normally have a lesson.

Students will also be given an independent learning grid where they can select different tasks to complete throughout the week. The KS4/KS5 independent learning grid is available to download from our website here:
<https://www.buckinghamschool.org/page/?title=Distance+Learning+Resources&pid=304>

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.



- Years 11 and 13

We still await definitive guidance from the DfE and Ofqual with regards to how examination grades will be awarded. However, the Easter break of an examination year typically signifies the point where all course content has been delivered and revision fully begins.

Students in Years 11 and 13 will be given one task a week for each of their subjects, supplemented with one Google Meet with their teachers per week, in each subject.

Where course content has not been fully delivered, the aim will be to finish the course. Where all course content has been delivered, the tasks will consist of revision tasks to complete.

The independent study grid available is also a good place to start if students are unsure of what to do or how to revise. This can be downloaded from our website here:

<https://www.buckinghamschool.org/page/?title=Distance+Learning+Resources&pid=304>

We hope these changes will enable our students to continue with their education but also not become overwhelmed with work or spend too many hours sitting in front of a computer screen. We are all trying to get the balance right; this should hopefully be a step in the right direction.

From a pastoral perspective, our form tutors will still continue to check-in with all students once a week. They should also be seen as the first port of call if you have any concerns or queries regarding school life.

Finally and most importantly, take care of yourselves and each other.

With my best wishes,



Mr D Fox

Deputy Headteacher

dfox@buckinghamschool.org

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