



Bramcote College

A member of The White Hills Park Trust

12th June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

At Bramcote College we have worked hard during lockdown to offer the very best support we can to our students and their families. Our ethos of “*Work Hard, Be Well, Do Well*” has meant that while we have focussed a lot of attention on supporting students’ learning we have also aimed to support their wellbeing to ensure that they are coping with the ‘new normal’ that we are all living with.

Bramcote College staff have been striving to support individuals and through this, to support our whole school community; this has meant that in addition to setting work, we have supported students’ wellbeing through phone calls and personal emails from form tutors, heads of year and favourite teachers. We have also worked to support families with the technology they need to be able to access online learning.

We are mindful that lockdown has brought hard times for many families and so we continue to work hard to ensure that students who may need a little extra have had regular food deliveries and help with the very complicated FSM vouchers system. We are committed to working with the Bramcote community to adapt to the ‘new normal’ and evolve as time goes on to do what is in the best interest of our students.

We have aimed to keep parents and carers as up to date as possible with developments covering the decision for schools to be locked down, opening for key workers’ children and vulnerable students, re-opening for Years 10 and 12 and the way in which GCSE and A Level grades will be awarded this year and the information we have had to share with the exam boards to allow them to make decisions about awarding grades. We have posted, emailed, texted and used social media to ensure that information was coming out as soon as possible and we will continue to do so over the coming weeks/months. Everything we have sent out is on our website for reference if you have missed anything. In addition to this we have now run two very successful ‘Zoom’ Parents Forums and have plans for a third one on July 2nd (see Facebook for details), which has given parents and carers the opportunity to ask questions about our current and developing plans for the support and education of their children.

We are proud of our staff, students, parents and carers and the tremendous work they continue to do to keep Bramcote learning and we thought you might be interested to see what we have been offering each year group at Bramcote College.

Year 7 and 8 are learning from home. All students have a weekly timetable to follow. A second paper home learning pack has now been sent out - these form an overview of the work for the coming half term and allow those without IT access to complete their work. Subject teachers are uploading additional resources on our Home Learning SharePoint sites for Y7 and Y8 every day, including videos, PowerPoints, and links to other educational resources - these are for use alongside the paper packs. Each subject will be asking students to submit 2 pieces of assessed work this half term via email or by uploading to the SharePoint site so that feedback can be given. In addition to this, tutors and Heads of Year are in regular contact with students to ensure their wellbeing and access to learning.

Year 9 are learning from home. They have moved on to pre-learning for their GCSE subjects through *Teams*, which they can access through their school email account. Students are in a ‘team’ for each of their GCSE options subjects. Work is set on these Teams each week by subject teachers and can be submitted to the Team for feedback, or by email to their teachers. Assessed work will be set as required by each subject. This work is intended to give students an introduction to their GCSE courses and prepare them for their return to

school when they will be in GCSE groups. In addition to this, tutors and Heads of Year are in regular contact with students to ensure their wellbeing and access to learning.

Year 10

Throughout lockdown students have been set work on Teams for each of their GCSE courses. Teams can be accessed through students' Bramcote College emails, or by downloading the Teams app. Work has been set by students' class teachers to focus on revising work covered in lessons during Year 10 and continuing to work through new knowledge in their GCSE courses. Teachers have sent students a range of resources including PowerPoints covering key information (many including recordings of teachers' commentaries which students can go over as many times as they need to), video clips and texts and web links to gather information from. Students have also received a range of tasks to complete, some of which have been submitted to teachers so they can feedback on progress and offer support and guidance. Students have also been able to access online learning using Seneca, which covers our full range of GCSE courses. From June 15th Year 10s will be invited to come into school one day per week for lessons and face to face sessions with teachers across a broad range of subjects. In addition to this, we will continue to set a full range of online learning on Teams and we are always looking into additional possibilities to support Year 10s' learning.

Year 11

Over recent weeks staff have been working closely with the school's Senior Leadership Team and a range of exam boards to submit Centre Assessed Grades for Year 11s, which the exam boards will moderate and review in order to award GCSE grades which will be available on August 20th when exam results are published. On Monday 18th May BC6F launched Pre-A Level teaching for Year 11s who are staying on at BC6F with all students being set fortnightly projects to complete aimed at developing skills and wider subject knowledge to prepare them for starting A Levels and Level 3 courses from September. Students who are not staying at BC6F have been offered course choice and careers advice, as well as being sent information on a range of online learning opportunities and guidance on how to get started with an EPQ (worth half the equivalent of an AS Level qualification). Students can still apply for places at BC6F and can be added to our Pre-A Level Teams at <https://www.bc6f.org.uk/index.php/pages/apply-online>

SEND support for students in all year groups:

- There are a handful of students who are currently receiving individual work packs fortnightly to support their specific learning levels and to help to keep them motivated in these unusual times. The work packs have a combination of core learning activities with an additional focus on Life Skills and Mental Health and well-being.
- For students who need additional support with literacy skills, they are supported and tracked via Reading Wise. TAs have been able to monitor, support and encourage students' progress and have been making contact regularly with students and their families.
- For any families who are struggling with supporting their child's academic and / or social and emotional needs individual support and advice is available from our SENCO. Weekly / fortnightly contact made with students and families to support learning/ well-being.
- Individual contact and support continues for many young people with SEND via zoom calls and multi-agency meetings.
- The TA team have been completing additional training in different specialisms to better support young people in and out of school. This professional development will continue throughout the summer term.
- Transition work has started to support Year 6 students who will be starting with us in September. For students with identified needs individual contact is made with families to gather further information around students' needs and motivators. Each pupil is allocated a key worker and we will make a start with building relationships virtually during the summer term.

Key workers' children and vulnerable students continue to be welcome to come to school on agreed days to do their work in the school environment. We are especially proud to support these children in school.

BC6F

Year 12

Students have been using Teams all year with their own Chrome Books which we introduced for all Year 12s in September 2019, so using this technology for teaching and learning was already familiar to them. Work has been set by students' class teachers focusing on the subject content of their course, skills and some review and revision of previously covered work. Online learning has included group and personalised guidance and a range of tasks, including a range of study skills such as knowledge acquisition, exam practice, problem solving and investigating, or focussing on the development of specific skills. Students have had access to PowerPoints covering key information, video clips and texts and web links to gather information or inspiration from. Students have also received a range of tasks to complete, some of which have been submitted to teachers so they can feedback on progress and offer support and guidance to help them to progress towards Year 13 assessments. From June 18th Year 12s will be invited to come into College for lessons on Thursdays and Fridays. In addition to this, staff will continue to set work through Teams.

Year 12s have also received pastoral support from the BC6F team and advice to help them with their plans for the future, including advice on UCAS university applications and virtual university open days, as well as how to apply for higher level and degree level apprenticeships and entering the world of work and training. Individuals have also been alerted to online summer schools being run by specific universities, courses and organisations which suit their interests and plans for the future.

Year 13

Year 13s continue to get the support they need to move into the next stage in their lives. Shortly after lockdown all students received personal calls from the BC6F pastoral team to confirm plans for the future and to identify ways in which they could be supported in securing places at university or on apprenticeships, and when students were unsure about their plans they have been offered support and guidance to develop their plans for the future. Where needed, students have been given remote careers interviews in order to ensure they are ready for the next chapter of their lives. We have also been able to offer remote interview advice for those students who have participated in virtual university interviews. Year 13 results day is Thursday 13th August and staff have worked hard with BC6F senior leaders and exam boards to recommend grades which exam boards will moderate and use to as guidance for the grades they will be awarding in the summer. In the summer students will also receive the usual support and guidance that BC6F offers to secure the next stage of their lives based on the results they achieve.

In the meantime, students have had lots of advice on how to keep busy during lockdown and the unexpected long break between the end of College and the start of the next stage in their lives; this has included highlighting a broad range of online learning opportunities in a tremendous range of areas.

As this 'new normal' continues to develop and change over time we will be working hard to plan and adapt to ensure that we support and engage our students and keep parents and carers well-informed.

Yours faithfully,

Heidi Gale
Headteacher
Bramcote College