



BENTON PARK SCHOOL

'Creating a climate for great learning, success and opportunity'

23rd March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a very strange day in school today without the sound of student voices ringing around the corridors. We hope that your child has been able to access their work on Teams and have started their home learning positively and productively. As always, if you have any issues accessing the work please contact us at school on secretary@bentonpark.net to ensure we can remedy this as soon as possible. All I would ask is that you please bear with the staff whilst sorting out issues as we all adjust to this new way of working.

As part of our support for the key front line workers we have had a small number of children in school today and we are grateful to their parents/carers who are playing a key role in the Covid-19 response. Whilst we are happy to support the wider community effort, the message is clear; if at all possible people are safer staying at home and so your support with this is much appreciated to ensure that we can protect our students and keep staffing levels to a minimum.

As before, please follow government advice and only send your child into school if they meet the qualifying criteria and they are not displaying any signs or symptoms which would mean that they, and you, would need to self-isolate. Details of this can be found on the Public Health England website or via the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

We will continue to communicate regularly with you and our students and below you will find some initial information. I am sure that as the days go on we will think of more things and we will keep you updated.

- Examination guidance: Over the weekend you will undoubtedly have read commentary on the proposals for awarding examination results to students in Years 11 and 13. Below is the official guidance issued by the government. As school leaders, we have a number of questions arising from this guidance and these are currently being raised with the Department of Education. Once we have further clarification we will contact you again. In the meantime, please ensure that your child keeps all of their work and wherever possible and practical that they finish off any pieces of coursework or assignments which they had started. Teachers will be contacting students via Microsoft teams with further instructions regarding this. The overriding message is that it is vital that they have as much evidence as possible of their studies and previous achievements.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

- Reception: our main reception will be closed. The phone system will have a message on asking you to email any queries to secretary@bentonpark.net. If you need to speak to someone please email your details and a brief outline of your query so that we can direct your enquiry appropriately. Someone will then give you a call back.

Headteacher: Miss D Martin

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www.bentonpark.org.uk

E-mail: secretary@bentonpark.net

 @BentonParkSch



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- Medication: if your child has medication in school you may wish to think about collecting this to have at home as a spare in case of shortage. If you do want to collect it please email secretary@bentonpark.net to advise when you are able to call into school.
- Free School Meals: we are in the process of arranging Morrisons vouchers for anyone registered as a free school meal within school. You will shortly be receiving a call from a member of the team to verify your email address. Once this has been checked we will send a weekly voucher. If you have not received contact by Wednesday 25th March 2020 and you believe you are entitled to free school meals please email financeteam@bentonpark.net

Over the coming weeks we are all going to be increasing our reliance on technology and it is important that our students understand how to stay safe online and what to do if they have any concerns. To support you with this, you will find lots of resources on our website at <http://www.bentonpark.org.uk/safeguarding/67920.html> or by visiting <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

We have said many times over the last week that these are strange and unprecedented times and today has really brought home the reality of the situation. Thank you for all your messages of support and for your patience whilst we get all the routines in place for our new way of working. We are still very much available for our students and you as their parents/carers and so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need any support. Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Delia Martin
Headteacher

Headteacher: Miss D Martin

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