



5th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope this finds you and your family safe and well during these very challenging times.

As we embark on another half term, it is sadly becoming increasingly clear from recent Government guidance that it is unlikely that Key Stage 3 students will be returning to school before the summer, and therefore we wanted to outline to you our plans for further developing our remote learning and increasing our students' opportunities to engage with the school community.

We are incredibly grateful to you as parents/carers for the support you are giving to your children to enable them to continue accessing the remote learning, especially as we are aware that many of you are juggling this with other competing priorities. Over the coming weeks, we would ask that you continue to encourage your child to complete the work set for them to the best of their ability, which will hopefully enable them to move on in their learning. To improve engagement we will try wherever possible, to increase the amount of 'live experiences' that students will have with their teachers, as well as ensuring that the remote learning includes a range of both new content delivery and opportunities for retrieval and practice of previously covered topics.

Written feedback will continue to be shared with students at least every two weeks, and this will provide clear guidance on which aspects of the work have been successfully completed and where improvements could be made. Student feedback so far has shown that this is highly effective and strongly supports their learning. Student completion of work is monitored each week, and systems are in place to provide additional support for those students who are finding it difficult or struggling to engage. If your child requires any additional help with their remote learning, please do not hesitate to contact their teachers directly, who will be able to offer further support.

In addition, to supplement students' academic learning experience, it is vital to us that we support their mental and emotional wellbeing, and ensure that they remain 'connected' to the school community whilst not physically in the building. In order to achieve this, your child's Form Tutor will be making contact with them to offer support and we will also provide weekly assemblies linked to the Benton Park Values. Later this half term we will also be issuing Form Tutor Reports.

An important aspect of our curriculum is our work around Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE). Resources to support this will be shared via Teams and whilst this will not involve compulsory pieces of work to complete, we hope it will offer a different stimulus for discussion and reflection for students. Topics covered will include coping strategies whilst they are not in school, developing an understanding of the work of the NHS and other relevant information linked to current affairs.

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BENTON PARK SCHOOL

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

We know that enrichment and extra-curricular activities are an important part of school life, and so, wherever possible, we are looking to resume some of our highly popular clubs this half term. These will include a range of options for students, including; Science Club, Humanities Club, Reading Club, Signing Club and more. Joining instructions will be shared with students via Microsoft Teams and all will be very welcome! Our PE faculty will also be sending out family fitness activities over the next half term, to enable students and members of their household to do some physical activity together, if they wish.

Finally, to maximise the learning for our students, we will not be holding the training days on the 19th June and 3rd July, and will continue to deliver remote lessons to students on those days.

We are thankful to have such effective partnerships in place with our parents and carers as these are proving invaluable as we navigate our way through these uncertain times. As always, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us on secretary@bentonpark.net.

Yours Sincerely

Delia Martin
Headteacher

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