



CREATING A CLIMATE FOR GREAT LEARNING,
SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

Parent Bulletin

Issue 24 | Thursday 7th May 2020

I am aware that over the past weeks there have been many stories in the media about the prospect of schools reopening, and no doubt you are keen to get clarity about the next steps with the lockdown and the potential return to school date for your children.

Despite all speculation, no confirmed plans have been outlined by the government, and we await to hear more in the imminent nationwide review. However this will look, please be assured that as Headteachers we are working collaboratively, on a local and national level, to carefully consider the consequences that a return to school will have. A great deal of work is already taking place to allow us to be as prepared as possible to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of all our students, colleagues and their families - which is our ultimate priority.

In other, more positive news – we are extremely excited to have received confirmation that the £28.5 million budget has now been agreed for the new school build, and we should hopefully start to see further progress over the coming weeks. The new build represents an important new phase for the school and we will keep you fully updated with developments as they happen.

I understand that this continues to be a worrying and uncertain time for our families and if we can support in any way please get in touch. I hope you enjoy a rest over the Bank Holiday, please take the time to relax with your family and look after one another.

Delia Martin
Headteacher

[Click here to access the latest Letters Home](#)

Student Home Learning

A huge thank you for the support you are giving to your children as they navigate their way through the process of remote learning. It is with great pleasure that we look through the work that students are submitting to their teachers, which reflects the hard work and commitment they are putting into their subjects. This will prepare them well for when we return to school, and ensure that they have minimal gaps in their learning.

Equally, the feedback that you as parents/carers and students have given us shows that students, in the majority of cases, are accessing their work and that the work is correctly pitched to sustain their interest and maintain their learning. However, we are aware that remote learning can present a range of challenges, and there will be a number of students for whom this is particularly difficult. There will be students who naturally feel overwhelmed by this way of working, and who may not, for a wide range of reasons, be able to complete all of the work set. Please encourage your child to liaise with their teachers if they are feeling this way, so we can support them and advise on how to proceed.

For us as a school, student welfare is of paramount importance, and as such, whilst we would always encourage students to complete as much of the work set as they can, we fully understand that, for some, it may be necessary to prioritise particular areas from the work that teachers are setting. Should you or your child require any additional support with this, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Bank Holiday

To mark the VE Day anniversary, this Friday 8th May, is a national Bank Holiday. As such, work will not be set for students to complete for that day and teachers will not be answering queries or providing feedback for completed work. We encourage our students, families and staff to take a well deserved break and enjoy the extended weekend. Remote learning will resume on Monday May 11th.





Year 11 Transition: We hope students have enjoyed the first round of bridging materials provided to them through Teams. This week students have had the opportunity to attend Q&A webinars with subject leaders. There will be another round of bridging material out next week to help students prepare for Sixth Form study in their chosen subject. Lots for students to be focusing on in preparation for their new courses after the summer.

Year 12: We continue to be impressed by the dedication the students in Year 12 are showing to their studies and their use of Teams to interact with their teachers. Working from home comes with its own difficulties though and managing workload without the structure of school is one of them. Ms Holdsworth has emailed advice to students with tips on how to balance study time, paid employment, down time and sleep in order to keep on top of their workload.

Year 13: For those students applying to university there are a couple of important deadlines coming up:

- **Tuesday 19th May** - is the deadline for replying to UCAS offers. For some students this date has been extended. If this is the case, students will have been contacted individually by UCAS
- **Friday 22nd May** - is the deadline to apply for Student Finance. Applications and further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

Eton College Online Learning

All Year 11 students have been signed up to an Eton College online learning module on Resilience, which is available to them all term and they can access daily careers talks by UK industry leaders.

All of Year 13 have been signed up to an Eton College online course on Creative Problem Solving and we've had our first student complete the course and receive a certificate. The course is available until the end of term for students to engage with.

If there are any problems with accessing these courses, please contact Ms Holdsworth.



CREATING A COMMUNITY

I know first hand just how welcoming Benton Park can be...there is such a huge sense of community.

Benton Park Sixth Form has provided me with many opportunities, most of them being to strengthen my CV and personal statement. I went to an eco-conference to discuss with the local MP how we can help the local environment, which will ultimately really help me as I aim to study Environmental Science at university. We are all very proud to represent Benton Park.

Izzie Johnson, Year 13

If you have any queries about any aspect of the Sixth Form, please do contact the Sixth Form Team using the details below:

General Sixth Form Issues:
oliver.wharton@bentonpark.net
Year 11 Transition:
andrew.feeny@bentonpark.net
Pastoral Care & Support:
kathryn.holdsworth@bentonpark.net

