



5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I hope that you and your family managed to find some time over the festive period for rest and relaxation and thank you for all the kind messages of support and thanks we received as a school. We all welcomed 2021 with a cautious sense of optimism, although I think we all recognised that we still had some difficult times ahead. It is however, with real sadness that I am writing my first communication of 2021 following the announcement made by the Prime Minister yesterday evening.

To confirm the current situation, all students will be moved with immediate effect onto remote learning for the next six weeks, until after February half term. School will remain open for vulnerable students and children of key workers. More information is detailed below on the arrangements for this provision.

The details of this extended lockdown also came with the announcement that all GCSE and A Level examinations will "not happen this summer as normal" and that the Education Secretary will work with the exams regulator, Ofqual, to put "in place alternative arrangements". You will be aware of the ongoing commentary on exams in the media, and this announcement has fuelled further speculation and differing reports. We appreciate this may have created upset and anxiety for our students and you as their parents/carers. Please be assured that we will work with our students over the coming weeks to support them fully as the situation develops, and we would strongly encourage them to speak with their Key Stage team or Form Tutor if they need some reassurance or guidance.

At the time of writing, we have no additional information on what these alternative arrangements may look like but we will be in touch as soon as we have any further clarification.

In the meantime, our key focus continues to be on delivery of our planned curriculum, through our normal timetable of teaching and learning for all Year Groups, including Years 11 and 13. It is important to highlight that students in Years 11 and 13 will continue to cover the syllabus for all of the courses they are studying and work towards preparing for examinations/assessments in the subjects in the usual way. Our overriding message to students is that they need to maintain full focus on their studies and we would ask for your support in encouraging them to engage fully with the remote learning programme. This approach will ensure that students are in the best possible position to develop the necessary skills and knowledge for their onward academic progression and to support any new assessment arrangements as and when they are announced.

Remote Learning

All students will follow the timings for the school day as follows:

8.25am - 8.45am	Form Time
8.45am - 10.45am	Periods 1 & 2
10.45am - 11.00am	Break time
11.00am - 1.00pm	Periods 3 & 4
1.00pm - 1.30pm	Lunchtime
1.30pm - 2.30pm	Period 5

Headteacher: Miss D Martin

Harrogate Road, Rawdon, Leeds, LS19 6LX Tel: (0113) 250 2330

www.bentonpark.org.uk

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Content delivery will include live online learning sessions, which students should attend wherever possible. There will be points during the live lessons where teachers are delivering content to students, and points during which they will be working independently, with the teacher available online should they have any questions or concerns. If your child is unable to access remote learning because they themselves are unwell, please let us know so we can record this appropriately. We will be reminding students of our expectations for remote learning. Please ensure they are reminded to adhere to these to ensure remote lessons remain a safe and productive learning environment for all students.

Free School Meals

Support will be provided for the students eligible for Free School Meals whilst they are working remotely. We are currently waiting for clarification from the Government as to how this funding will be accessed by parents/carers and as soon as we have this information we will write to the relevant families directly.

Support and Guidance

As always, we will continue to provide full support and guidance to all our students. Please do not hesitate to contact us on the details below should you require any assistance.

Key Stage 3 Pastoral		
Key Stage 3 Leader	Ewan Reed	ewan.reed@bentonpark.net
Year 7	Bridget Barrett	bridget.barrett@bentonpark.net
Year 8	Michelle Duffin	michelle.duffin@bentonpark.net
Year 9	Andrew Moriarty	andrew.moriarty@bentonpark.net
Key Stage 4 Pastoral		
Key Stage 4 Leader	Mark Ross	mark.ross@bentonpark.net
Deputy Key Stage Leader - Year 11	Jo Welbourne	jo.welbourne@bentonpark.net
Targeted Support Officer - Year 10	Emma Leonard	emma.leonard@bentonpark.net
Key Stage 5 Pastoral		
Assistant Headteacher	Oliver Wharton	oliver.wharton@bentonpark.net
Key Stage 5 Leader	Andy Feeny	andrew.feeny@bentonpark.net
Deputy Key Stage 5 Pastoral Leader	Kathryn Holdsworth	kathryn.holdsworth@bentonpark.net
Other Services		
IT Related Queries		helpdesk@bentonpark.net
Free School Meals		financeteam@bentonpark.net
General Issues		secretary@bentonpark.net

All students have been sent information on how to contact Safeguarding Staff along with guidance on managing their mental health via Microsoft Teams, a copy of this information is available on the school website or by [clicking here](#).

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Spring Term Events

Over the coming days we will be looking at all the planned events over the next six weeks, including mock exams and assessments and we will be formulating alternative plans and access arrangements. Further details will follow in due course.

We fully understand the pressure remote learning and lockdown places on our families and we are incredibly disappointed not to be able to welcome our students back into school for a further extended period, but as always, the safety of all our students, staff and families remains our main priority.

Thank you again for your continued support and if we can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact us on secretary@bentonpark.net

Yours sincerely

Delia Martin
Headteacher

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