



22nd April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Sixth Form and Year 11 Progression

We hope you and our Year 11 students are safe and well and that you have both had chance to digest the events of the last few weeks and what it means for your child. Hopefully, the guidance regarding the awarding of grades helped to ease anxieties and allowed our students to start to project their positive thoughts forward to the next steps in their educational journey. Despite everything that is happening, we are conscious that this is a milestone in your child's life and it should be an exciting time for them. With this in mind, our work is very much focused on how we can support them in the current circumstances and provide them with all the opportunities they deserve to move forward.

For the vast majority of our students this will be transition into our Sixth Form, whilst for others this will involve college or apprenticeship opportunities. To support our Year 11 students we are providing a range of careers activities through Microsoft Teams. These include webinars from UK industry leaders, and a self-study module run by Eton College on 'Developing Resilience', in addition to subject based academic materials. These opportunities will benefit all of our students and we would strongly encourage them to access the resources.

For those students due to move into our Sixth Form, we have a bespoke package of support available to ensure they have a smooth transition into their Post 16 studies. This will begin during the next two weeks with Subject Leaders and Teachers contacting students on a fortnightly cycle to provide engaging and stimulating material for those students who are planning to carry on with a subject area at Post-16. This will be followed up with a fortnightly opportunity to have a Question and Answer session with a subject expert to review this material or ask questions about A Level study in their subject.

Our transition plan will continue with a 'Virtual Sixth Form Taster Day' on 1st June where students will be able to experience a virtual lesson for their chosen areas of A Level study. Further details regarding this will follow in due course but it will be an ideal opportunity for students to develop and enhance their subject knowledge and start to understand the study skills needed at A Level.

In line with our usual arrangements, students progressing to Sixth Form will also be asked to complete a summer assignment, which will form part of the induction process for the new academic year, as well as bridging materials. Experience tells us that students who fully engage in the bridging materials and complete the summer assignments have a strong and positive start to Year 12.

Over the course of the coming weeks, staff will be contacting all of our Year 11 students to provide support and guidance on their next steps for September. Given the unusual circumstances we are in, we understand that some students may be

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experiencing uncertainties. To support this, we are still accepting applications into our Sixth Form and for any students who haven't yet applied but are now considering this as an option, we will be more than happy to explore all of the possibilities with them.

We look forward to continuing our work with you over the coming weeks and if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact either a member of our Key Stage 4 Pastoral Team on mark.ross@bentonpark.net or a member of the Sixth Form team on sixthform@bentonpark.net

Yours sincerely

Oliver Wharton
Assistant Headteacher – Post 16

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