



BEDFORD  
FREE SCHOOL

[www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk](http://www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear parents / carers

I want to thank you for your continued support. We are truly appreciative of the efforts that families are making in these challenging times to support their children and their learning at home.

### **Remote learning:**

Our dedicated teachers and support staff continue to provide extensive work for pupils using our remote learning platforms. Teachers won't be setting work over half-term to enable pupils and their families to enjoy a break. Pupils should therefore resume their remote learning timetables from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Yesterday the government issued some helpful guidance with advice for parents and carers on how to support the home learning of secondary school children (year 7 to 11). This can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-secondary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

### **Remote learning engagement survey letters:**

Mr Wood is overseeing a survey of pupil engagement with remote learning. This is largely based on the level of work submission as report by subject teachers. Parents of pupils in Y10 will have already received letters and letters will follow for Years 7, 8, and 9 after half-term.

### **Key workers:**

Although school remains closed for most pupils we continue to be open full-time for childcare for vulnerable pupils and for pupils whose parents' work is essential in the fight against COVID-19. You can request places in this childcare by emailing [keyworker@advantageschools.co.uk](mailto:keyworker@advantageschools.co.uk).

### **Information and letters:**

A reminder that all letters as well as information about remote learning, support and advice for pupils and parents can be found on our dedicated website page: <https://www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk/covid-19/>

### **Morning Registration Online**

We continue to ask pupils to register each day using on the BFS online register. Registering in this way helps pupils to maintain a productive morning routine, but it will also give them a

T: 01234 332299 E: [info@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:info@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk) Bedford Free School, 12-16 Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AD

**R E S P E C T • H O N E S T Y • H I G H E X P E C T A T I O N S**

valuable way of communicating with the school. When registering, pupils are able to raise any concerns, let the school know if they or anyone in their family is unwell and request for someone at school to contact them. Please remind your child to do this each morning, full details can be found on SMHW. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Bedford Borough survey:**

Bedford Borough is currently conducting a parent survey. It aims to gather your views about distanced learning. The information gathered will be used by schools and Bedford Borough Council to strengthen support for learners and their families. Your feedback is highly valued.

You can complete the survey here: <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/NWGG5KC>

### **The Harpur Trust support for schools and families:**

The Harpur Trust charity has set aside a very large level of funding to support needs that have become apparent as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. Over the last few weeks, it has been speaking to lots of different schools as to how they believe the Harpur Trust can best provide support. Following those discussions with schools The Harpur Trust plans to make available to schools reconditioned laptops and other digital equipment, which have been donated by members of the local community, including private individuals and businesses, to loan to those families in greatest need. We are currently reviewing our records of those families who may have problems with IT access and will look to bid for a number of laptops to support our families. If you have not already made us aware of an IT access issue please can you email [info@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:info@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk).

### **Staff music video:**

A number of colleagues led by the wonderful Mrs Rick have produced a music video for our pupils which will be published shortly on SMHW and our Facebook page.

I hope you and your family have a restful half-term. Should you have any question or need any support, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Keep safe and stay well.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Blake  
**Principal**