



BEDFORD
FREE SCHOOL

www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk

6th May 2020

Dear parents / carers

I want to thank you for your continued support over the past couple of weeks. This is a strange time for us all and I want you to know that we are here to support pupils or families in any way we can through this difficult time.

You can continue to find information and guidance on our dedicated page on our website:
<https://www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk/covid-19/>

In addition, our wonderful pastoral leaders are available if you need to get in touch with us directly. Please find their contact details below:

Year 7	Mrs Runnegar-Clark Email: arunnegar-clark@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk 01234 332275 07762 413440
Year 8 & Year 9	Ms Robinson Email: robinson@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk 01234 332278 07377 232187
Year 10 & Year 11	Mrs Costin-Webb: Email: ccostin-webb@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk 01234 332292 07783 015976

Community:

We've heard of lots of amazing things parents, pupils and staff are doing to support our local community. For example, Ms Robinson has been working with a local designer and inventor to make components for protective visors. So far, she has managed to produce over 450 visors for frontline workers. Alongside other local schools we have donated our science safety goggles to Bedfordshire police.

We've also had a number of our Y9 pupils and families contribute to a local effort to make pillow case laundry bags for the NHS, police and ambulance crews. The aim of these laundry bags is to assist each person to change out of their clothes at the end of their shift, put the used clothes directly into the pillow case and when they return home, put the pillow case and all its contents directly into the washing machine. This removes the need for anyone to touch the potentially infected clothes until they are clean again. Some photos can be found below:

T: 01234 332299 E: 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



You may also be aware that staff are currently undertaking a virtual “run” to Paris to raise funds for Bedford’s Foodbank. Further details can be found on the school’s Facebook page. These are just some of the fantastic examples of our families and staff “going the extra mile”.

Weekly bulletin and rewards assembly

Each week Mrs Foley produces a student weekly bulletin, this can be found on your child’s SMHW calendar. This contains useful information including support and guidance, as well as PSHE resources. Please do encourage your child to read this information each week.

Mrs Foley has also uploaded our latest rewards assembly. Well done to everyone who has been nominated awards. We are really proud of your hard work and dedication. Please keep up the fantastic work!

Remote learning:

Teachers continue to set work using Show My Homework (SMHW). It is important that pupils continue to log in each day to review and complete the work being set by their teachers. Pupils need to submit their work as requested so teachers can provide some feedback. If your child is having any problems accessing SMHW using their own username and password, or submitting work please contact Mrs Logan on 01234 332290 or 07594 249851.

Mr Wood recently wrote to pupils in Y11 about undertaking work which would help to bridge the gap between GCSEs and post-16 study. Teachers continue to guide pupils towards work which is challenging, interesting and prepares them in some way for their courses. It is understandable that Y11 pupils and parents will still have lots of questions about the arrangements for the start of post-16 courses in September. Questions about enrolment and entry requirements will be best directed to the post-16 providers themselves, who will no doubt be working on these things at the moment and be in touch when they have the information. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Costin-Webb or another member of staff if there is anything we can do to support.

Y11 Proud Video:

Usually about this time of year we host a special ‘proud assembly’ for Y11. Sadly, this year this hasn’t been possible, but we didn’t want pupils to miss out on this wonderful experience. As Y11 transition to preparing for their ‘Next Steps’ and the next stage in their education we still wanted to let them know how exceptionally proud we are, so we have published a video on our Facebook page. Special thanks to Mrs Monk for pulling all the videos together and to all the staff who contributed.

Year 9 Options:

We’ve currently holding off undertaking the Options process for Y9 until we know more about the future. When we do proceed we will most likely ask pupils to submit their options requests online. This will require pupils to have access to the same school email address they currently use to complete the online register each day. Full details and any resources required will be provided. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Morning Registration Online

We continue to require all pupils to be registering on a daily basis using the online BFS register. This not only helps pupils to maintain a productive morning routine, but also gives them a valuable way of communicating with the school. Full details can be found on SMHW and a reminder of the process can be found below:

Pupils should:

1. Log in to Show My Homework in the morning as usual
2. Click the link that will be provided each day. This will take them to a webpage where full instructions for completing the register will be provided as a daily reminder.
3. Before pupils complete the registration process they must ensure that they are logged into their school Google account using their school email address that takes the form:

[userid@student.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:user@student.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk)

(Pupils will already be aware of the user ID they will need to use. It is the same username and password they use to login to computers in school and will have used in computing lessons. If pupils are unsure or do not know their school login details then please contact Mrs Logan during normal school hours on 01234 332290 or 07594 249851 for further assistance)

4. Click the 'Register Now' button
5. Complete the form and submit the register

Friday 8th May

This Friday is a bank holiday, which coincides with Victory in Europe Day, or VE Day. This marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. The weather is looking fine and I know many families are looking forward to spending some time at home celebrating together. As a result, teachers will not be setting work for pupils to complete on this day.

There has been much speculation in the media about when schools might reopen. At present we remain closed, except for vulnerable pupils and those whose parents are key workers. Rest assured we'll continue to monitor the situation carefully and update families if the government provides any information.

As always, should your family have any question or need any support, contact details and other information are available on the BFS website. Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Keep safe and stay well.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Blake
Principal