



Achievement & Opportunity
for All

THE BROXBOURNE SCHOOL
High Road
Broxbourne
Herts EN10 7DD

Tel: 01992 411060 Fax: 01992 411061
e-mail: admin@broxbourne.herts.sch.uk
website: www.broxbourne.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher
Paula Humphreys BSc MBA

5TH January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Further to my letter dated 31st December, and following the Prime Minister's announcement last night, our plans for mass testing and a staggered return to school are put on hold as we move to remote teaching until after February half term. I should like to thank all parents and students who completed consent forms so quickly and who volunteered to help with the mass testing process. It may be that these plans come to fruition later in the term but we will have to wait for further guidance.

Arrangements from Tuesday 5th January until February half term

Ahead of the changing government guidance, teachers worked in departments yesterday, planning remote learning for the start of term. We will now adapt these plans for remote learning, ensuring:

- Year 11 and 13 students follow a normal timetable online this week, typically Googlemeets. All other year groups will have work scheduled with some Googlemeets where possible
- From 11th January until February half term, all year groups will be taught online and should follow their normal timetable, typically through Googlemeets

There may be some disruption to this schedule as we have a number of teachers who are currently unwell and others who may have childcare issues.

Year 11 and 13 exam arrangements

As you will also be aware, the Prime Minister stated last night that because all students will learn remotely until February half term, *'it is not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal'*. What this means is not clear and we understand the Secretary of State for Education is asking Ofqual to consult rapidly on an approach for alternative arrangements for the summer exams that will allow students to progress fairly. We are expecting that there will still be some sort of assessment for Year 11 and 13 students, whether it is externally set and marked or set internally and used to support assessed grades.

The Department for Education stated last night that public vocational exams scheduled to take place in January 2021 will go ahead as planned. This means that unless there are further changes, the OCR Cambridge Nationals Creative iMedia Award and OCR Cambridge Nationals Sport Award will take place, as planned on Monday 11th January. We will contact students separately about additional revision sessions.

During the last lockdown, most of our students made excellent progress and engaged online superbly well. We would ask you to support us in reassuring your children who will be understandably anxious and encourage them to continue engaging with their work and online lessons. For those who struggled last time to focus, it is not too late. All students made real progress last term and so they are in a strong position. It is important that students

continue to work hard in their remote learning and complete all work to the best of their ability. If any student is having difficulties caused by access to ICT, please let us know so we can offer some support.

We will not hold the Year 11 mock results day on 15th January as stated in the calendar. Instead, mock examination results and feedback will be shared during their online lessons. The Year 11 parents' evening will still take place on Thursday 21st January and we are pleased to be using new software to schedule virtual appointments. More details will follow from Ms Naugher, Assistant Head (Progress).

As a school we will work extremely hard to support our students with online learning and to ensure final assessments are fair so that our students' achievements are recognised and enable their future progression.

Year 12 mock examinations

Year 12 mock examinations cannot take place as planned in school. However, we feel it is important that we check their progress formally and that students have the opportunity to practice examination style questions. Therefore, we plan to continue with mock examinations remotely. Examination papers will be sent out to students 30 minutes before their allocated exam time and students will return completed papers within 30 minutes of the exam ending (via scanning on a printer or using an app such as CamScan). This process was successful for Year 13 students who were self-isolating during their mock examination period. Further details about the timetable for Year 12 mock examinations will follow but the dates when they will happen are as follows:

Monday 18th January - remote revision day (no teaching or work set)

Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd January - remote mock examinations

Wellbeing

This is an unsettling time, and it is natural for students to feel concerned. Please encourage your children to contact their form tutors, Head of Year or subject teachers if they are feeling particularly anxious or stressed. We will continue to look for even more ways we can support students remotely.

I have included below some links which we shared at the start of the March lockdown which may be useful if you or your child are worried or anxious about the situation around Coronavirus:

Mind – Coronavirus and your wellbeing

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/#TakeCareOfYourMentalHealthAndWellbeing>

Young Minds – What to do if you're anxious about coronavirus

https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/?fbclid=IwAR0nhFp_P70YYZd1CJF1T_D_thEY9tZzDzzR8P7iu6gbbVVZ_LTu6x0UL8U

Mental Health Foundation – Looking after your mental health <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

OCD UK – OCD and Coronavirus Top Tips <https://www.ocduk.org/ocd-and-coronavirus-survival-tips/>
How to contact us

If you have any questions, please continue to contact us using admin@broxbourne.herts.sch.uk. Please be patient as replies may take longer than usual.

We are much better prepared for remote learning than in March: more students have Chromebooks and both teachers and pupils are more skilled in using Google Classroom. Mr Pinnock, Assistant Head (Teaching and Learning) will write to you in the coming days with Google Classroom tips to help you to support your children more easily.

I hope you remain well and I thank you again for your understanding and support in these difficult and uncertain circumstances. I will write again when we have further guidance.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Humphreys". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and 'H'.

Paula Humphreys
Headteacher