



Achievement & Opportunity  
for All

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Headteacher  
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12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

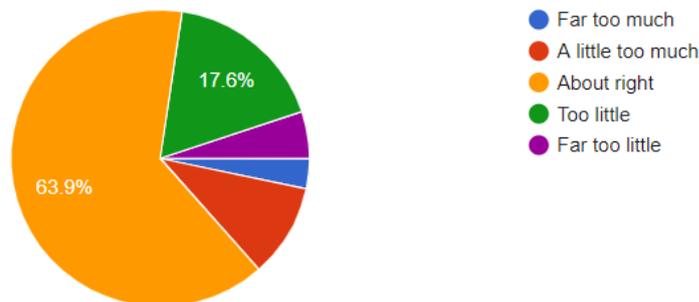
I hope that you are all well and keeping safe during these difficult times.

As we come to the end of a half term teaching remotely, it is an opportunity for us to review and plan for the next few weeks of remote teaching after half term. I am delighted that we have received positive feedback from many parents confirming that the activities provided by teachers have enabled learning to continue, albeit in very difficult circumstances.

I would like to thank you for responding to our parental survey on remote learning provision. We were pleased to see that the majority of parents were of the view that the volume of work being set for their children was appropriate, as can be seen below. We also gathered information from you about what you felt was working particularly well and what the main obstacles to remote learning were. We will use this information to further enhance our provision.

How would you assess the volume of work your child has received?

393 responses



We have tried this half term to keep to the structure of a normal timetable but we are very aware that this is difficult for some students when fitting in with arrangements at home and some students are spending large amounts of time in the evenings 'catching up' with work because they did not finish the work during lessons. Whilst we want to encourage students to work hard, we would not wish to add undue pressure to what is already a challenging situation for us all. Please reassure students who have not been able to complete all work, because of the time available, or if they have found some tasks too difficult, that their teachers do understand. They are also continuing to develop new skills and finding new ways of working. Sixth form students have more opportunities to complete their work as they



have in-built study lessons as part of their timetables, although we recognise the current difficult context even for our sixth formers. We have also had discussions about the amount of screen time over the half term which is greater than we would like for teachers and students. If remote teaching goes on for longer than expected next half term, then we will look to introduce some screen free working times. Despite these challenges, I think there has been a lot of productive learning taking place and I would like to thank staff and students for their hard work and positivity at this time.

After half term, teachers will not routinely send out reminders to students about their lessons. Students should assume they have a Google Meet lesson at the times set out below unless their teacher tells them otherwise. As previously, the Google Meet link to these lessons is in the banner at the top of each Google Classroom.

	<b>Period 1</b>	<b>Period 2</b>	<b>Period 3</b>	<b>Period 4</b>	<b>Period 5</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	8.50	9.50	11.10	12.10	13.40
<b>Year 8</b>	8.50	9.50	11.10	12.40	13.40
<b>Year 9</b>	8.50	10.10	11.10	12.10	13.40
<b>Year 10</b>	8.50	9.50	11.10	12.10	13.40
<b>Year 11</b>	8.50	10.10	11.10	12.40	13.40
<b>Year 12</b>	8.50	9.50	11.10	12.10	13.40
<b>Year 13</b>	8.50	10.10	11.10	12.40	13.40

We have entered a waiting period with further guidance to come on the return of students to school and the outcome of the Ofqual consultation. We are hopeful that we will be able to return to school from 8th March as suggested previously by the Prime Minister. The outcome of the Ofqual consultation should give greater clarity regarding how A-level and GCSE grades will be awarded this summer and hopefully remove some of the anxiety felt by everyone due to the current uncertainty.

Wellbeing

I have copied below some of the tips and advice previously shared by some mental health charities that 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](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/>

The school will be closed from 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February for half term. We will re-open on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February for vulnerable children and children of critical workers who are not able to stay at home.

Please note even though it is half term, and the school is closed, we are still carrying out contact tracing with Public Health Hertfordshire if your child has been attending school this week. If they have a positive test result for COVID-19 after developing symptoms of COVID-19 within 48 hours of being in school or, if they have no symptoms but have a positive test result within 48 hours of being in school, then please inform the school ([admin@broxbourne.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@broxbourne.herts.sch.uk) marked URGENT), stating the date when your child first developed symptoms and providing a copy of the test result or text. Please note the admin email address will only be monitored for the first few days of half term as after this point it is unlikely any contact happened in school.

I should like to thank you again for your support during this time. Please do contact us if you have any concerns as we are committed to the continued welfare and education of all our students. I will keep you updated of any further developments as they arise.

Yours faithfully



Paula Humphreys  
Headteacher