



Head Teacher Weekly Update 19 June 2020



From Monday, our year 10 and 12 students were invited back to school for face to face contact with their teachers following changes in government guidance. We are fully supportive of these changes and have had great pleasure welcoming students back to school. They have worked really effectively with our teachers this week and are following a revised timetable to support their learning. We hope that in the coming weeks, more parents have the confidence to allow their year 10 child to return to school. This will provide vital support with their day to day classwork and enable us to plan more effectively for September 2020 and beyond.

As I write this week's newsletter, we have welcomed approximately half the year 10 cohort so far and all of our year 12 students are following a similar re-integration programme to boost learning opportunities. We are delighted that we can offer this programme for both year groups until the end of the current academic year in July.

At present, it is not possible to increase the number of students attending school or give the opportunity to other year groups to have face to face discussions with tutors and teachers. The government is continually updating their guidance to secondary schools and we are following these principles as closely as possible to ensure everyone is safe in our working environment.

In the meantime, all parents and students will be contacted by their tutors or the pastoral team to check on current work access and arrangements, mental health provision and have a general discussion on any areas we can continue to support you with. These telephone meetings are our way of continuing our intensive support for all of our families and although they are not our preferred way of communicating with parents, they are the best alternative at present.

Before the end of term, all students will receive a newsletter from their own year leader with updates and information from each year group. Some of our parents requested this via our email system and governors meeting. We thought this was a great idea and a much more personal approach from each year leader. Those newsletters will be sent to parents and students in the coming weeks.

Our transition programme, despite being affected by the coronavirus, has also started. All of our new students and their families have been contacted by myself and we look forward to welcoming them in September. In the coming weeks, students will be able to have a virtual tour of the school and parents and students will have the opportunity to speak to one of our senior or pastoral staff to answer any questions or queries they may have. Further details will be given in next week's newsletter.

Yesterday saw the announcement from the government that the FSM vouchers will be made available to eligible families throughout the summer holidays. This is a welcome move and we will ensure that all families have access to the voucher scheme for the entire school holidays.

Once again it has been lovely to see so many students and parents visiting the school this week to collect work packs from our main reception. We appreciate all the efforts you have made to support your children in these strange times and we look forward to the day when we can safely have all students return to Baldon school.

Mr I Noble
Head Teacher