Head Teacher Newsletter
4 January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Happy New Year to everyone and I hope that 2021 brings you health and happiness and that all families have had rest and recuperation over Christmas and New Year. The new variant of Covid 19 has meant that we start the term with the delivery of remote learning, except for our key worker children and vulnerable students. Please do not send your son/daughter to school unless it is absolutely essential and that you meet the criteria for the critical worker list. Our staff will be on hand over the next two weeks to plan and deliver remote learning and support your child in engaging with this.

Timetable for the full return to school – (This is subject to change and we will update the information as soon as we receive it from the DFE)

Week beginning Tuesday 5 January – critical worker students and vulnerable students only.
Week beginning Monday 11 January – Years 11 and 13 students to return to school.
Week beginning Monday 18 January – Years 7-10 students return to school.

Remote Learning

We will be using our Show My Homework programme to set work for the majority of students. Students will be expected to follow their daily timetable which shall support parents and ensure that students have a structured day. Students will also be expected to log on to Show My Homework by no later than 9am where they shall respond to a simple task set by form tutors. This will act as our attendance record each day. Students who have not logged on will be contacted by school staff.

If any parent / student does not have log on details for Show My Homework please contact the school on info@boldonschool.org.uk or via our telephone service on 0191 5362176. We can also provide paper based resources as a second resort which will be available from next week. We have worked incredibly well with the local authority to boost our ICT provision in school and we have been able to provide more computers and dongles to families who previously didn't have access to these resources to support continued progress.

We are prepared to deliver a continuation of this programme should the national picture change and shall continue to investigate the possibility of direct on-line lessons, particularly for examination classes. On-line provision will be of the highest quality using resources such as Oak Academy, Hegarty Maths, BBC Bitesize, GCSE Pod and Seneca. The Department of Education has stipulated that priority is given to exam year groups initially. However we will endeavour to ensure that all students are contacted by staff if they are failing to engage with work set.

Remote Learning Timetable for all Year Groups

Students are expected to complete school work for 4 hours. This is our suggested timetable for the organisation of the day. Students will be following their normal daily school timetable.

Registration log on 9.00am

- Lesson 1 9.15am - 10.00am
- Lesson 2 10.00am - 10.45am
- Break 10.45am - 11.00am
- Lesson 3 11.00am - 11.45am
- Lesson 4 11.45am - 12.30pm
- Lunch 12.30pm - 1.00pm
- Lesson 5 1.00pm - 1.45pm

Rapid Testing

During the first week of term, secondary schools are planning a rapid testing programme for students and staff. We are working with the local authority and other schools within the borough to best support this new initiative. This includes training, recruitment and setting up a designated testing area within school. We will contact you with further details in due course.

If parents have any questions please contact the school on info@boldonschool.org.uk and we will contact you as soon as possible.

I realise this is a really uncertain time for many students, teachers and families. We have been delighted to welcome the students back to school in 2021 and hope to provide you all with support and guidance in the coming weeks. As the term progresses, we hope that the new vaccine ensures we get back to full time education as soon as possible, as this is what we all hope for. I thank you again for your support and patience while we deliver our remote learning plan and testing procedures.

Ian Noble
Head Teacher