



Head Teacher Newsletter September 2021

The students have made an excellent start to the new academic year and we have already seen some fantastic attitudes towards learning in our learning walks. Most of them now know the school inside out and their questions of where each room is has reduced considerably. All of the students have settled back into routine really quickly. As we progress further into the term, our extra - curricular programme will be sent to everyone and students will have the option of staying at school to do an additional club or practice.

Our school is now at almost 1,000 students and over the last few days it is really evident that our school parking and one-way route out of school is finding it really difficult to cope with all the cars. Our school car park is needed for all our staff and we have very few additional spaces for visitors. The first two car park bays (marked in blue) are for the community association. We would really appreciate it if you could not park on the school grounds to pick up students, as we are finding it hard for our staff to leave school at the end of the day, when some have essential events / meetings to attend. We have extensive bike sheds in our school grounds and students also benefit from walking home or at least to a less congested place to be picked up. There are a lot of areas outside the school where parents could pick up children and reduce the volume of traffic in our grounds.

Covid-19

Although we have moved beyond the national restrictions that have had a far reaching impact on our lives, Covid-19 remains a key priority for the government and the Department for Education. Many of the restrictions that were in place at Baldon have now been removed and we hope that students will be able to enjoy a much fuller curriculum and extra - curricular programme throughout the year.

Student Responsibilities

Students should wash their hands as often as possible and should sanitise hands on entering and exiting each room. Our school is fully equipped with hand sanitiser in each room and this has become an essential part of starting and ending the lesson.

All students must sit where the teacher requests and a seating plan is provided by the teacher. If a student believes that they have Covid-19 symptoms of a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss/change to the sense of smell or taste, they must tell a member of staff as soon as possible and follow the instructions given to them. Students must aim to give people space where possible during social time and in corridors.

Parent/Carer Responsibilities

Parents should ensure that students do not come to school if they have Covid-19 symptoms of a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss/change to the sense of smell or taste, or if they have tested positive for Covid-19. They must follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. Parents and carers are also responsible for informing our attendance team, if a child is absent because they have tested positive for Covid-19 or if they have symptoms.

School responsibilities

We will ensure that enhanced cleaning continues as has been the case for over a year. This will include regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces. Classrooms will continue to have windows and doors opened all day unless the temperature drops to the point that it prevents learning from happening. All meetings take place in well-ventilated areas with a desired 2 metres distance. Handshakes and other physical contact will be avoided by staff.

Face coverings

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they be worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport or dedicated transport to school. Students can continue to wear a face covering to school if they wish in all areas of the school.

CO2 monitors

The government has decided that CO2 monitors will be given to all state schools. Around 300,000 carbon dioxide monitors will be made available to schools in England to help improve ventilation and lessen the spread of Covid-19. The Department for Education says the portable monitors could be used to identify where more air-flow is needed, so schools can act accordingly.

Lateral Flow Tests

All students should continue to test themselves at home two times per week. Any positive results should be forwarded to school. Test kits are available from school.

Year 8 Meet The Tutor Evening - Tuesday 14 September 4pm- 6pm

We are very pleased that we are now able to invite our Year 8 parents/carers into school to meet the tutors. This will take place on Tuesday 14 September, parents/carers will have a brief meeting with the tutor to discuss progress during Year 7. There will also be an opportunity for students to give parents a brief tour of the school, should they wish. Mrs Davies (KS3 Lead), Miss Prince (Year 8 Lead) and Mr Mallam (previous Year 7 Lead) and Miss Korn (SENCO) will also be present, should you have anything to discuss. There will be a full parents' evening on Tuesday 26 April for parents to meet subject teachers.

We look forward to seeing you and discussing your child's progress.

Google for Education

As you may be aware we are currently moving to Google for Education in order to support students to achieve their potential. This is an exciting development for the school as it allows us to communicate much more effectively with students and parents as we move forward. In order to support the school and your child can you please ensure that they know their email address and their password and that they can log on to their google account.

Students can log in to their account by:

1. Go to the school website.
2. Click on the google classroom link
3. Log in using their email and password (if they have not logged in before then the password is password)
4. Change their password to something they shall remember for the rest of their time at Boldon School.
5. Click on google classroom and accept all their classes.
6. Explore the available resources such as docs, slides, sheets, meet, drive etc.

In the event of any further lock downs we shall be setting work, feeding back and communicating with students through Google classroom so it is imperative that students can access this easily and understand how to use these resources.

Extra-Curricular

We are excited to relaunch our extra-curricular provision in the next couple of weeks. There will be something on offer across all areas of our school and would encourage all students to take part in as many as they can. PE activities will start next week, Monday 13 September- details below, and all other clubs including homework club will start week commencing Monday 20 September. All clubs will run straight from school until 3.45pm and are free of charge. Full timetable will be available to view on the school website next week.

PE & Sports Activities

Tuesday

Football

Dance

Fitness Suite

Duke of Edinburgh (Year 9 & 10 members only)

Wednesday

MMA

Pool Activities

Trampolining

Netball

Fitness Suite

Thursday

Rugby

Table Tennis

Clubbercise

Fitness Suite

