

BHS Update



1st May 2020



Attachments this week:

- Online Radicalisation Doc

When will we be opening to all children again?

The honest answer is that we simply do not know. There is increasing speculation that schools may be asked to manage some sort of phased return where limited numbers of students are allowed in the building. We are yet to hear more on this and as you can imagine, we have many questions around when this would be, how it would work and which students it would involve. In preparation for such a scenario we have started to plan different models which we will share with the Local Authority in the hope that we are as well prepared as we can be, given the lack of information and guidance at this stage.



Department for Education

Who is school currently open for?

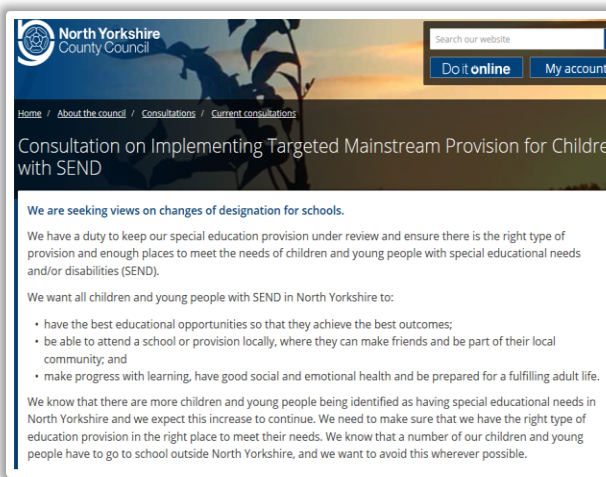
Every 2 weeks we contact our list of parents who are either key workers, forces families or have children who could be considered to be vulnerable. School is open to these children **'if they cannot stay safely at home'**. Where parents are at home, in most cases they would be expected to keep their child at home unless there are specific reasons why this cannot work. We take in the children of key workers on the days when there is no one else to care for them at home.

If you feel that you should be part of this contact list and you are not currently receiving this email on a fortnightly basis, please do contact Mrs Knight in the first instance:

knighta@bedalehighschool.org.uk

Thank you to parents for keeping us up to date with their requirements - it helps us to ensure that the right provision is in place.

If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they must be.
If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
Parents must also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They must observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision.



SEN Provision

At the request of the NYCC, I emailed parents this week to share a link to the consultation process around the changes in SEN provision that they have been working on. Some queries came back to me from parents who were concerned to see a section on 'The Removal of Enhanced Mainstream Provision...at Bedale High School'. I'd like to clarify some points around this. Firstly, this provision was removed from BHS almost 3 years ago! Secondly, there are no planned changes to our current SEN provision and there is no expected impact on any of our SEN students. We will continue to manage their needs through Alison Knight and her team, as we have been doing. I am sorry for any worry or concerns that you may have arisen as a result of reading this.

Year 6 Welcome Video

If you are a regular visitor to our school Facebook page, you may have already seen our welcome video that we have produced for our new Year 6 students. Clearly we are currently unable to do the usual transition visits for them, so we came up with a Plan B. There was one day during the Easter holidays when Isobel (Yr 7) had the misfortune of being the only child in school - and I was the only member of staff. We took the opportunity to make a short video, using Isobel as the presenter, to give the Yr 6 students a little taste of what life is like at BHS. I have to say that Isobel was incredible...a natural in front of the camera and her smiley, friendly face set the perfect tone. We will be sharing it with our local primary schools very soon, but please feel free to pass it on to any other parents you may know who have children coming to us:

<https://www.facebook.com/bedalehighschool/videos/230849008011036/>



BHS remembers former teachers

Sad news this week when we learned of the deaths of two former teachers: Tony Proud and Anne Parlour. Tony started under the first headteacher, Roy Mitchinson in 1961. He taught here for 25 years. He drove for Dobson's of Bedale as a PSV driver, bringing the students in every day from his beloved Masham. Tony was a Head of Year and Head of Woodwork. Anne taught cookery, needlework and Home Economics, mostly under her Head Of Department, Liz Webster, for 25 years until her retirement in the early 1990's. Judging from the comments on FB, they were well loved and their service to the community was clearly appreciated by those who knew them.

Get Help Here...

Form Tutor/Pastoral Team/Miss Bradbury (KS3)/Miss Temple (KS4): for any wellbeing concerns

Subject Teacher: for any subject specific questions around learning tasks

General Queries: Email admin@bedalehighschool.org.uk or call 01677 422419

General Updates

Home Learning & Resources:

Thanks to all our students for the fantastic work they are doing at home, we continue to see some wonderful examples...keep it coming. Remember that deadlines on SMH are just a guide - we are not expecting 5 hour-long lessons to be replicated at home everyday! Please keep encouraging your children to pick a range of subjects/lessons through the week and to stay as active as possible. Mix it up between paper-work, online tasks and the BBC Bitesize Daily lessons on iplayer/red button.



Askham Bryan Virtual Open Event: This is aimed at Key Stage 4 students who may want to find out more about what the college can offer. Please click on these links for further info:

<https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/whats-on/virtual-open-event-1>

If you book, you will receive a link through to the 'Find out More' page: <https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/students/apply-now/find-out-more> .

Online Radicalisation - Parent Information: We have received some guidance and information to pass on to parents in case they have any concerns or questions on this. Please see the attached document and come back to us if you have any concerns.

Online Safety: Please can we remind parents to be especially vigilant at this time when it comes to your child's use of social media, messaging apps and group chats. There has been an increase in cases of older adults targeting children during the lockdown period by taking on fake identities and pretending to be young people. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

Self-Teach Challenge: The latest staff project to feature on FB is the self-teach challenge. Following Mr Gill's effort on Fission/Fusion last week (easy!), Mr Wild has taken up the mantle by tackling Pythagoras Theorem:

<https://www.facebook.com/1078072425548301/posts/3140238395998350/?vh=e> Keep your eyes out on FB for Miss Allsop tackling some English punctuation next week!

School Uniform: We are currently in discussion with our supplier who is looking into ways to support those who need to renew items of uniform. They are exploring how they might be able to facilitate this during this period with the constraints that we are all working within, and we will share more information shortly.

#Stronger Together: Following their success with the PPE Project, Miss Allsop and Miss Riley-Fox are working on their next amazing idea...more details to follow through the week but it will be a community project aimed at raising support for one of our local care providers. Thanks again to both colleagues for their continued work with the PPE equipment this week.



