

# BHS Update



15th January 2021

## Get Help Here...

Form Tutor/Pastoral Team/Miss Bradbury (KS3)/Miss Temple (KS4):

for any wellbeing concerns: [bradburys@bedalehighschool.org.uk](mailto:bradburys@bedalehighschool.org.uk) / [templec@bedalehighschool.org.uk](mailto:templec@bedalehighschool.org.uk)

Subject Teacher: for any subject specific questions around learning tasks

Yr 11 Exams: Mr Gill [gillm@bedalehighschool.org.uk](mailto:gillm@bedalehighschool.org.uk)

General Queries: Email: [admin@bedalehighschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@bedalehighschool.org.uk) or call 01677 422419

# Covid Testing in School



Thank you to all the parents who engaged with our survey on this issue. 70% of you felt that school should be engaging with the testing of students at some level. Our staff survey showed 50% of staff feel this way. It is no secret that I have significant concerns around the way that this has been left to schools to organise. But despite my reservations, it seems sensible and prudent to do it if the majority of our families are going to feel safer as a result.

There is A LOT of planning involved, but the current closure of school to most students does mean that the process is more manageable than it would have been. We hope to be ready at some time WC 25<sup>th</sup> January to begin this process, and our plans are to offer the following 3 elements of testing:

- Covid Testing for students who are in school (the vulnerable and key worker groups). This will involve 2 lateral flow device tests, taken 3-5 days apart.
- Weekly testing for staff who are in school
- Daily testing of anyone identified as a contact of a positive Covid case

**Please be assured: ALL of these 3 options are completely consent based.**

**No student or member of staff will be coerced or pressured into engaging with the testing.**

Please see my letter last week for more information on the testing, and keep an eye out for emails and further info as we get closer to our launch day. We will need to collate consent returns from parents, but there will be a clear form for this.

The idea is that most students will be able to self-administer the tests, under the guidance of trained adults. I hope to use staff who have already worked in school in some capacity, rather than external agency staff - but again, I will let you know the details once I have them.

None of this changes our existing COVID protocols - they will remain in place.

## Year 11: GCSE Exams Update

This week, Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has outlined his plans for what will replace the summer GCSE exams. So what do we now know?

- Grades will be based on Teacher Assessments, NOT an algorithm, but this will require 'a breadth of evidence'
- Assessments should be based on what they have learnt, 'rather than against content they have not had a chance to study'
- He wants grades to be decided 'as late as possible' to allow as much teaching & learning as possible
- The process may still involve 'mini-exams' - externally set tasks/papers to support teachers in their assessing of students.



Mr Gill held an assembly with Yr 11s last Monday. The basic message to them is: **PLEASE KEEP DOING YOUR SCHOOL WORK!** We don't yet know what these external assessments will look like, but it sounds as though they will only form part of the student's grade - so we are still in a position where every piece of completed work could potentially form part of the evidence for the rest of that grade. We await further details in the coming days and will have a Zoom meeting for Yr 11 parents as soon as we get this information. In the meantime, please do email Mr Gill, your child's subject teacher or me with any questions.

## Remote Learning Update

Firstly can I say a huge thankyou to all your lovely messages over recent days. I have shared some of these later on in the newsletter - they have given all of us such a lift as we continue to produce the best remote learning that we can. We have also had a few worries and concerns about how students are engaging and coping with the learning. These are important too and I urge you to keep in contact with us around any issues.

Last week I sent out a Remote Learning Guide for parents - this is now on the website for you to refer to: <https://bedalehighschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Remote-Learning-Guide.docx.pdf>

One question that has come up from 3 parents this week is whether we are planning to do more 'live' lessons. I know that some schools are doing 100% live remote learning. I am totally against this model - the idea of students having to be in front of a screen for every lesson at home strikes me as very wrong. However, a well-planned live lesson can be a really powerful tool and we continue to share good practice in school around this, encouraging colleagues to try it and use it where we know it is going to work.

Interestingly, Ofsted have this week changed their tune around live lessons being the magical cure for remote learning. They are encouraging schools to adopt a varied approach that includes some live teaching, online and offline learning and other approaches. That said, we have done some more training with some colleagues this week as we do feel that some more live lessons would help to further strengthen the balanced nature of our offer.

We also think that staff/student contact remains vital, and here are some of the other actions we are developing:

- Morning tutor time when students will be able to join a brief Teams session with their form tutor and peers, just to check in and share any issues
- Teacher live check-in sessions: opportunities for students to 'join' a session with the teacher to check their understanding of the work that has been set, and to resolve any issues
- Year group and Key Stage assemblies (starting next week - invitations to come out via Teams)

**Remote Learning**  
A BHS Guide for Parents January 2021

For the period of school closure from January 4<sup>th</sup> 2021.

**Why is this important?**  
Most parents are either working, or having to work from home during this latest lockdown. We understand that managing this situation can be challenging and stressful. Even if you are not working from home, keeping your children motivated in their school work is not always straightforward or easy. For your children, too, this is a difficult time as they adjust again to not seeing their friends, and may feel anxious about falling behind with their learning. We hope that this guide will clarify what you can expect from school, and the steps you can take to get extra support if you need it.

**Some Lessons Learned from**

- We must be realistic in understanding just how difficult it can be for parents to support their children at home, while managing work commitments.
- Our statutory obligation to set 5 hours work each day should not lead to parents and students feeling stressed or anxious if they cannot complete all of this every day...each family and household have their own situation to deal with, and the routines/expectations that work for one may need to be different for another.
- We must work hard to ensure that work is appropriately challenging/accessible for students of all abilities and needs.
- Despite some perceptions in the media, setting high quality remote learning for all lessons is harder for teachers than teaching 'normal' lessons in school.
- Moving to 100% live lessons is not the answer that resolves all remote learning issues (see 'What the Research Shows').
- Communication between students and their teachers is crucial...the 'little and often' approach works well.
- Parents were really appreciative of high levels of communication throughout the last lockdown.
- Technology, when used carefully, can really help to raise the quality of remote learning. But relying on it completely can alienate some learners.
- Variety is key! We need to keep the remote learning as interesting as possible.
- Remote learning does provide opportunities to develop other useful skills such as research and independent thinking...but this takes practice and guidance.

**What's in this Guide?**

Lessons Learned from last time  
What the research shows  
What you can expect from teachers  
What about Games and PSHE?  
Direct resources you may want to use  
Using Teams / Email / SMS  
Key dates for remote learning  
Can I access online learning?  
Supporting your children  
Getting Help: Who and How?

## Early Help Virtual Parent Support Sessions

Please find attached the details for the Spring Term Early Help virtual sessions that we have been asked to signpost you to. You just need to email or telephone if you are interested in joining any sessions (contact details are on the attached document). You do not need to be working with Early Help or Social Care to take advantage of these sessions...they are open to anyone.

Brilliant offer from Nick and Gordon Carver Estate Agents in Northallerton - thank you to Matthew, one of our site team, for pointing this out to me. They are happy for me to share it here...



Nick & Gordon Carver Estate Agents

11 January at 09:03 · 🌐

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## Year 7 Parent Evening

Due to the current circumstances, we are unable to invite parents and pupils into school to meet with subject teachers to discuss progress and behaviour for learning. Therefore, in place of the Year 7 parents' evening, parents and pupils will be receiving a written comment from their subject teachers to reflect on pupils' work and engagement so far this academic year. In addition to this, we are offering a drop-in session with the Senior Leadership Team and Miss Bradbury (Head of Key Stage 3) on Wednesday 20th January at 6pm. This is for parents and pupils to ask any questions that they may have at this time. Please come and join us using the link below to share any feedback at this time.

Alison Knight is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Year 7 Parent Evening Drop-in  
Time: Jan 20, 2021 06:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86123145643?pwd=a0poL2ZyUmpjWVUzY3RaNGpYaTJJdz09>

Meeting ID: 861 2314 5643

Passcode: B4mii4

## THE BHS 'BE KIND: PASS IT ON' CHALLENGE

It's very simple...you share a simple act of kindness, then nominate someone else to take up the challenge. Each time the new person passes on the challenge once they have completed it. We are doing it with students, parents and staff. Regular updates will appear on our Facebook page, but see below for examples so far this week...

## **BE KIND: PASS IT ON**



*Some brilliant examples have been shared this week...have a read to remind yourself how brilliant our students/your children are!*

Hi Sir, this morning I woke up at 7:00am and left my mum in bed to have a sleep in. I started on her usual morning house work, as I did the dusting, bleaching and hoovering for her! I then woke her up with a nice cuppa in bed 😊

Thanks, Jodie (Yr 11)

Lucy (Yr 7)

Lucy asked me to cut her hair, a normal thing I hear you say. However her act of kindness was to donate the hair that was cut off ( 20cm in length) to Little Princess Trust, a charity that collects real hair to make wigs up for children being treated for cancer. It's currently being stored at home as they can't process them at the moment due to limited staff, so we are hoping to send it through when lockdown has been lifted.

Hello Sir this is Coco (Yr 7)

My act of kindness was earlier today when my mum came in soaked to the skin wet from her run... I got her slippers, made her a cup of tea and put put her wet and muddy socks on the radiator.

Taylor (Yr 7)

My mum is a childminder and is looking after key worker children during lockdown. 2 of the children are under 2 and require constant attention. As me and my sister (she's 5) are currently schooling from home, my mum is trying to shuffle her job and our learning all day everyday, with zoom calls and team meetings at different times for me and my sister. I have been helping mum by playing with the young children whilst she helps my sister. I've even sang nursery rhymes (haha) and I have helped keep the home tidy. I've taken the dogs out for walks if they haven't had one.

From my son Thomas (Yr 11)

Made a family quiz so we can all have a bit of a laugh tonight. My husband has been working and I have been "homeschooling" our five year old and Thomas has been cooped up in his room working hard.

From Josh (Yr 7): I would like to tell you my act of kindness. I washed the dishes for my mum when she wasn't feeling very well.

From Isobel (Yr 8): Earlier this week, while my father was at work, I cleaned the kitchen, I tidied the living room and I fully cleaned each bathroom (2). A great surprise for when he came home.

From Libby (Yr 9):

Hi Sir, My act of kindness that I have done this week is, everyday I take my dad his lunch and a coffee while he is busy at work!



Everyone at the Primary & High Schools are doing a fantastic job. Thank you for your help.



The communication and support from your school has been absolutely amazing. I really appreciate it.

Thank you for all you are doing to support and protect families and your staff.

We are extremely grateful for everything you and the team at BHS are doing, thanks for listening to my suggestions - we have no doubt you are constantly trying to do the best for the kids and the school.



I'd also like to express my thanks to yourself and the other staff in school for the work you are doing to ensure our children get an education during this lockdown & difficult times.

I also want to take the time to say thank you to all the teachers and staff for keeping the children safe I know it must be scary for you all working in this and with the extra work you're having to put in with the online learning,



As a teacher I know how crazy things currently are so would like to express my thanks to you and the rest of the staff for all that you are doing.

Please pass on our continued support for all the staff ... We are thrilled with the support and feel the mix of live and scripted lessons is perfect.

Thank you all for all that you are doing, the work you have all done throughout your Christmas 'holiday' and the work to do the online learning. With best wishes to all of the staff and please keep yourselves as safe as possible.

Just wanted to extend my thanks to you and your amazing staff once again for excellent communication throughout this lockdown. (Our Children) have had constant guidance and work set with consistent feedback. Your teachers are simply outstanding.

Thank you to you and your Team.  
We hope you are all well and keeping safe.

Please pass on my thanks to all staff at Bedale - we feel so supported during this (and previous) lockdowns.

I appreciate the difficult work you are all having to deal with, you are all working so hard and for that I thank you.

Thank you Ms Haydon and all the other teachers for your hard work in these difficult times.

