

BCS REMOTE LEARNING UPDATE

13th May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you and your family are all well. I know that as this awful pandemic continues, more of us will experience loss; you are all in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Many of you have contacted school with concerns and messages of goodwill – thank you. We aim to deliver quality care and learning experiences as best we can, even though we have no clarity as to how schools will look in the short to medium term. To that end, I have a few points of update for you.

Contacting School

The best way to get in touch is via the school e-mail address: info@bloomfield.belfast.ni.sch.uk Should you need to talk to someone urgently, ring 07778467914. Please note that we had been using the Bloomfield233 to email parents, but so many were bouncing back that we moved to text. Please do not reply to the Bloomfield 233 account, as it is not monitored. From next year, we will use apps to communicate with you all.

Catch-up Week

We are aware that many of our conscientious pupils are feeling under pressure. From today until the end of next week, no new work will be set. Deadlines for the end of this week or next may be relaxed to allow for this – pupils should contact teachers if they need clarity. This will allow pupils to catch-up on work missed or take a well-earned opportunity to relax a little bit. We know that different pupils work at different speeds – that's ok! A daily routine and regular engagement with teachers and other pupils is perhaps more important at the moment.

Pupil Stress

If you are worried about your daughter's mental health, we can help. Our regular school counsellor is still working via phone, or we can set up a video call with members of the pastoral team. Either contact your daughter's Head of Year or email Mrs Wharry (jwharry997@c2kni.net).

Online Learning

We are also aware that there is a broad spectrum of IT provision in our pupils' homes. Some are struggling with working from phones or limited WiFi, others have printers/scanners etc. The Education Authority has asked school to forward requests for laptops etc. that may be helpful. If you would like to request an item of IT equipment for your daughter, please send an email to the info@ account or call 07778467914 and it will be passed on to EA. Also, the girls will be receiving emails regularly from their teachers; please let us know if she cannot access them.

Children of Key Workers

We are now operating as a hub for primary school pupils who cannot find a place in their own school as well as any of our own pupils that need supervised. If you are a key worker, you may find that you need to send you daughter to us, and may also wish siblings of primary age to join her. If so, please email the info@ account or phone 07308095157 and someone will get back to you. Alternatively, you can speak with an EA officer by phoning the EA COVID-19 line 028 38368186 and selecting option 1.

Year 9/10 Maths

Please note that due to the disruption to the academic year, pupils in Year 9 will progress into Year 10 in their current form classes, and will not be changed according to Maths classes.

Year 13 Careers

Last year, Year 13 pupils were asked to return to school after exams in June to begin the UCAS process. We will be doing that online this year, and so Year 13 pupils should watch out for emails from the Careers staff very soon.

Finally, I wish to formally recognise the dedication and industry of the staff. Many of our teachers have young families, and so are sharing the issues many of you face with home-schooling their own children. Others have, or live with people who have, underlying health problems. Some are facing serious illness in their families. Nevertheless, the learning opportunities and support provided to our girls has been incredible. My thanks to them and to all of the backroom staff who have ensured that we can keep things going.

Stay safe



G Greer

Principal