

Ref: RV/hw

23 March 2020

Dear Parents

I want to start by passing on our huge thanks to you for stepping up so magnificently to the challenge of supporting the new world of remote learning and learning from home. We are thrilled that over 800 pupils had logged onto Show my Homework before 9.00am this morning. It is a testament to their commitment to school and to your great home support.

Let us not forget however why we are facing this challenge and take a moment each day to remember our country and our incredible NHS in our prayers.

Dear Lord, we pray for our loved ones and all in our school community. We pray especially for our NHS workers and all those who are working for our welfare at this difficult time.

We also pray for those who are ill or anxious at this time.

We join our prayers, with Mary, our mother:

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.

Holy Mary Mother of God,

pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

Amen.

I am aware that some of you will be juggling work with child and other caring roles this week which will be a challenge and the same is true for many of our staff. This is a very new way of working for us all. I have every confidence however that, together, we can do this brilliantly. I welcome your feedback on how home-working is going and will review our practice each week to reflect this. Above all, let's be patient and kind with each other as we all adapt to a new world which seems set to be our world for a considerable length of time.

Work for pupils during school closure

To support our children's education during this period of school closure, teachers will be uploading tasks for their classes onto 'Show My Homework' every week.

We have aimed to make this as clear and manageable as possible by devising a timetable for each year group.

These timetables are on the website and show that in most cases work will be uploaded for two subjects each day. Work should be available by 9:30am each day. Additionally, staff will be available to answer individual queries between 9.00am-1.00pm each day using the 'Show My Homework' facility. Please also see a link to some activities and support for parents/pupils from Pearson:

https://www.pearson.com/uk/learners.html?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=G BEDGN0320COVID

Access to Internet and Show my Homework Issues

If you have limited internet access at home, or know of anyone else who is struggling to access Show My Homework do let us know.

Several parents have kindly passed on teething problems with Show My Homework as well today. Many thanks for this. We shall use your invaluable feedback to keep improving the service

Any queries or comments

Email rstevens@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk and mgeoghegan@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

Phone 01282 506200

Pupils are also able to access Microsoft Office (Powerpoint/Word etc) from their computers by logging onto their Office 365 accounts (see attachment).

Twitter

We really want to celebrate the fantastic work that you and pupils are doing this week and to spread the story that we are still working and educating pupils.

Any stories. Any examples of great work from pupils. Anything that will bring a smile. Please share.

Email rkeighley@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

Year 9 Options

The deadline for Year 9 options is **Friday 27 March**.

Many pupils have already submitted these. If not, please now email your child's options to school.

We will contact you next week in any case should any options be missing or incorrect, so can I ask parents not to worry about their child missing out.

Feedback on the options your child has been given will be sent out by mid-June.

For any queries:

Email rstevens@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

Year 11: Topics of the Week

It was very emotional saying such an early goodbye to our wonderful Year 11 pupils on Friday and we are keen to stay in touch with them too.

Mr Cooper has already started broadcasting A Level Mathematics lessons for those pupils considering this as an option in September.

In addition, we shall be sending out an amended Topic of the Week to Year 11 Pupils every Friday, with suggestions for enrichment activities they can do to keep learning over the coming months.

Year 11 pupils can also request access to <http://btrcc.pbworks.com/w/page/100439361/FrontPage> where they will be able to access content such as work to prepare for A Level Mathematics.

Year 11: Awarding of grades

Here is an update on the current position.

- Regulators will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with us and the other exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students.
- Exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.
- To produce this, teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. Clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges soon.
- Exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.
- Regulators and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising the approach, to ensure that it's as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.
- The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students **before the end of July**.
- These grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.



- We'll also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students aren't disadvantaged.
- Students will be able to appeal their grades if they don't believe the right process has been followed.
- There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to – and students can also choose to sit exams next summer

If any pupils are worried about grades please ask them to get in touch. Equally if any think that they may need to resit in November and want to start preparing we can offer guidance.

Email: Ms Stevens rstevens@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk and Mrs Geoghegan mgeoghegan@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

Food Boxes

We have contacted families eligible for food boxes directly today. If you have any queries regarding food boxes, please contact the school using office@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

Department for Education Guidance on School Closure

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home and every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should 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 listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

1. Health and social Care
2. Education and childcare
3. Local and national government
4. Food and other necessary goods
5. Public safety and national security
6. Transport
7. Utilities, communication and financial services

Although school will be open for a small number of pupils, can I draw your attention to the statement made above '**every child who can be safely cared for at home should be**'.

Thank you for your continued support. I pray that you and your family will be safe over this time.

Yours sincerely

Richard Varey
Headteacher