



SMA

Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are all continuing to keep well and stay safe.

In the week, I wrote to you to let you know the latest guidance that the Government had produced regarding the phased opening of schools. I hugely appreciate the impact, from an educational and wellbeing perspective, that the school being closed is having.

Since the school closed on 20<sup>th</sup> March, we have sought to minimise the impact as much as possible by doing the following:

- Our teachers have been ensuring lesson by lesson work is set for all of our Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 students and transition work is available for our Year 11 students to help bridge the gap to A-level.
- Ensuring our staff are contactable at all times by email to assist students where they have difficulties with the work.
- Running an in-school provision for our most vulnerable students and students whose parents are key workers, during term time and the Easter holidays.
- Weekly phone calls to all of our most vulnerable students to ensure they are safe and have access to the work that is being set.
- Home visits to follow up any welfare concerns.
- Sending an email to all students, detailing support that they have access to, both academically and from a wellbeing perspective.
- Form tutors sending a 'keeping in touch' email to their tutees. A second round of emails is currently in process (see below).
- Providing Free School Meal vouchers for those eligible, during term time and in the school holidays.
- Taking a rigorous approach to produce Centre Assessed Grades for Year 11 and 13 students to be sent off to the examination boards.

I appreciate that this in no way reciprocates students being in school, but of paramount importance has to be student and staff safety. There is nothing I would want more than to have all of our students and staff back, but I appreciate this can only happen when it is safe to do so.

I have had a number of queries about the possibility of running more online lessons and this is something we are increasingly looking to develop and are trialling with some of our Year 12 students. I do feel it is important to remember that there are a number of issues facing this:

- The vast majority of our staff have been working off site since the school closed, apart from those that are supervising our in-school provision. They have been facing their own challenges at home whilst diligently ensuring that we are doing all those things I've listed above, looking after dependents and using their own variable technology.

- Any provision we provide, we want to ensure that all of our students have access regardless of home circumstances and their financial situation. We appreciate that we have a significant number of households that are sharing IT devices and have a varying quality of broadband for example, and I feel it would be unfair to put excessive pressures on parents many of whom have the same challenges with balancing work and home schooling as our staff.

I am immensely proud of the efforts of our staff in such challenging circumstances. At the time of writing, we have made contact with every single student in the school and have continued to persist, even when contacting some has been difficult. I know our staff are missing having the children in school and will step up as we start to open the school in a phased way after half-term. I hope your children are aware of this.

We will continue to develop our practice and I thank the parents that have written to me to praise our staff and for making suggestions on things we can do moving forwards. We are in the process of developing this provision, more on which we hope to communicate next week.

### **In-School Provision**

Since the end of March, we have continued to provide supervision for our most vulnerable students and those whose parents are key workers for those that have no safe alternative. This provision will continue, but please be advised that our primary aim still continues to be the safety of students, staff and those in the local community. If you would like to use this, please email me directly at [sma@boswells-school.com](mailto:sma@boswells-school.com) or contact your child's Head of Year. The provision will stay open over the May half-term holiday including Bank Holiday Monday for those that need it. If your child has already accessed the provision, there is no need to inform us if your child will be attending unless your circumstances or needs change in some way. Please be aware that we will ask for parents who are key worker to email us proof should their child require the provision.

### **Emails from Tutors**

Form tutors have been communicating with students for a second time this week and all students should have been contacted by 3.20pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Please can you encourage them to reply immediately to the email so we can identify if they require any additional support at this very challenging time. We wish to receive all replies by 3.00pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May. This includes students in year 11 and 13 as we are still very keen to see how they are getting on and offer them support.

Do please encourage them to document in their reply to their tutor if they have any questions or require additional support. If you or your child have any concerns relating specifically to a subject, please do email the subject teacher or Head of Department. If the issue relates to wellbeing please contact the child's Form Tutor or Head of Year. Contact details for all staff can be found on the Boswells website: <https://www.boswells-school.com/about-us/our-staff.htm>

If your child is having technical issues with their school email, please contact our IT Manager, Daniel Perry on [ITSupport@boswells-school.com](mailto:ITSupport@boswells-school.com).



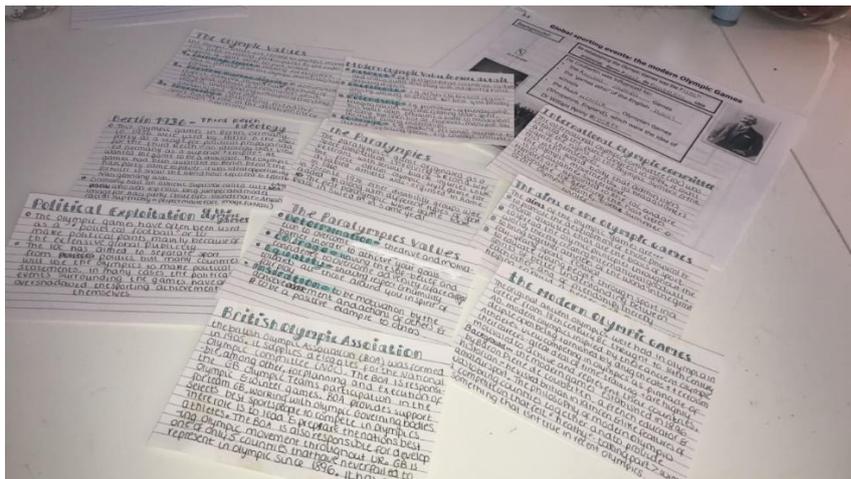
## Celebrating Students' Work

We have been overwhelmed by some of the amazing work being undertaken at home and from this week we will be starting to mention some of these with messages from our Heads of Faculty. If your child has completed a piece of work they are particularly proud of, please encourage them to share this with Mrs Jones on [tj@boswells-school.com](mailto:tj@boswells-school.com). We will be sharing successes and examples of excellent effort in the weekly communication and on our social media platforms. We are very proud of the efforts our students are making and we want to take opportunities to celebrate them where we can.

This week, we have been particularly impressed with our Year 10 Computer Science students who are doing amazingly well with their 'Amazon Future Engineer' python coding practice. Most students have achieved 100% for Unit 1 Coding with Drones. They have now been challenged to code a 'Smart Home'. Lots of programming constructs being demonstrated here.

In Science, well done to all our students in Years 7-10 completing their weekly tasks on Tassomai; that each week we will now be awarding achievement points. For those showing consistent effort they will be awarded badges in September.

In PE, students have been working well on their revision notes:



There are also a number of competitions running and online activities and tours with some of the major galleries which the Art department have been promoting. These two are particularly interesting:

### Wildlife Art Competition

For any students interested the RSPB are running a WildArt 2020 Competition. The deadline is 28th August and follow the link below to see the rules and prizes.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-kids/rspb-kids-competitions/wild-art/>

### BP Portrait Award 2020

Due to the corona virus the National Portrait Gallery has put this year's BP Portrait Award online as a free virtual tour. Go to the link below and explore the collection, read about the works, think about what you like/dislike, what are the compositions like etc. how might you be inspired?

<https://www.npg.org.uk/whatson/bp-portrait-award-2020/virtual-exhibition>

## May Half-Term

As during the Easter holidays, we are not intending to set lesson by lesson work for students to complete. I believe that this is a time for families, teachers and students to regroup and refresh. I would suggest that we all try and take some positives from the situation, enjoy family time, encourage students to take up a hobby, focus on their physical fitness or enjoy reading a book.

## Kooth

Kooth is an online tool which can support young people with their mental health and wellbeing. They can use the website to set personal goals, keep an online journal or talk to a counsellor about anything going on for them. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

## Loss

We are aware of the huge change to 'normal' life everyone is experiencing. Allison Marshall, one of our school counsellors, has put together some thoughts about the feelings of loss which I attach. You may wish to read it through and talk through some of the emotions which your child may identify with.

## Exercise Books

Unfortunately, we are unable to facilitate the issuing of new exercise books at this time. As I am sure you can appreciate, for safety reasons, we wish to limit visitors to the school site.

## Contact Details

Please can I remind you to update your contact details via SIMS Parent, if anything has changed during lockdown.

## Contacting Us

Just a reminder that the best way to contact us whilst the school is closed is via the school email account ([admin@boswells-school.com](mailto:admin@boswells-school.com)). You should expect receive a response within 2 school days, but if your queries are urgent, we are trying to deal with them as soon as we can. Please do not leave messages on the school's voicemail as these are only being picked up on a weekly basis.

Yours sincerely,



**Stephen Mansell**  
Headteacher