



SMA

Friday, 24 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

There has not been a huge amount of national development this week, with the Government continuing to ask us to stay at home. Schools remain closed and if there is any news to the contrary on this, I will ensure this is communicated to you.

Email from Tutors

Your child's form tutor will be emailing your child via their school email address. They should receive this by Monday at the latest. The email is to check how they are and how they are getting on with the work that is being set by their teachers. **The email requires a response, so please can I ask you to ensure your child checks their school email account and replies to their tutor as soon as they can.** For a minority of students, you may be receiving regular phone calls instead from their Head of Year or another member of our Pastoral or Leadership Team.

Home Learning

As I have stated previously, we understand how difficult it is to home school your child. Even at secondary age, the expectation of students continually being able to learn new work independently is a huge ask for the majority and the pressures/anxiety this can bring is huge both on parents and students. Following a meeting with our Heads of Faculty, we have agreed that it is in the best interests of students in Years 7 to 10 for the home learning to be based around consolidation of work they have previously covered, much of which they would have been doing anyway as they would have been approaching internal examinations/assessments. There will be exceptions in Year 10, particularly for vocational subjects, where we feel they can continue with the coursework element of the specification. Year 11 will continue to be set bridging work. It was felt that Year 12 should continue to be given work on 'new' topics and their understanding of this work will be assessed in due course.

If for any reason your child is struggling with any of the work, please ask them to email their subject teacher (or you can if they are reluctant to). If it is a specific lesson/concept they are struggling with, please ensure this is specified so that appropriate help can be given.

We have had a small number of parents/students contact us to say they are finding it difficult to keep up with the work that is being set. Please can I reassure you once again that this work is just a guide and there is not an expectation that every single thing must be covered. It is also not healthy for your child to be spending 5 or 6 hours in front of a computer screen every day. We have asked staff, where possible, to mix up the work between computer based and more practical work so hopefully this is the reality at home.

Conversely, if your child would like to access more resources the following might be useful:



The DFE have signposted a new online resource, Oak National Academy. It's has a series of online lessons by year group from reception to Year 10 and it looks quite good. It is constantly being updated but it may be useful. The link to the website is [here](#).

On a similar note, the BBC have updated their Bitesize provision to include some 'Daily Lessons' and these go from Year 1 to Year 10. The link to these lessons is [here](#).

Free School Meals

Hopefully you have all now received your Free School Meals eCodes from Edenred, and have successfully purchased a supermarket eGift card of your choice. We appreciate the process this week was not as smooth as it could have been, but as I explained this is a national Government scheme and is not within our control.

To alleviate some of stress from the process, we have decided from next week we will credit your Edenred accounts with four weeks' worth of vouchers. So you will receive £60 per eligible student (e.g. 1 child - £60.00, 2 children - £120.00 & 3 children - £180.00), which will cover the period from Monday 27th April to Friday 22nd May.

The next batch of eCodes should reach your email address sometime during the course of next week. If you experience any issues, please do contact us via our admin email admin@boswells-school.com.

Thank you for your continued patience.

Government Laptop Scheme

Last weekend, the Government announced they would be introducing a scheme by which schools could apply for laptops for their most in need students. Schools are still awaiting for specifics on this and as soon as we receive this information, we will pass this on.

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). 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

