



Bluecoat Beechdale
Academy

Belong, Believe, Achieve

Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer(s),

I hope that you and your families are keeping well in these difficult times. Not only have we been dealing with the ongoing effects of the coronavirus pandemic, but during the last two weeks, and since the abhorrent killing of George Floyd in America, we recognise the distress that many of our students, families and staff members are going through. The diverse nature of our school community at BBA is something that we are extremely proud of, and we are entirely committed to fighting racism and prejudice in all of its forms, and to the active promotion of equality for all. It is vital that we work together as a community to support each other and to say: Black Lives Matter.

I thought I would write to you to update you on the position we find ourselves in, almost 11 weeks after schools were closed by the government in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Student work

The vast majority of our students are continuing to work from home. Work is set weekly online and can be accessed via Google Classroom. The codes for lessons are emailed to students' school email accounts, along with individual invites to lessons. For those students who do not have access to a computer and the internet, this work has been sent home in paper form. Please continue to support your child in completing their work.

Teaching and Learning Helpline

From the 22nd June, we are trialling a teaching and learning helpline for **Year 7 students** initially. If this is successful, it will be extended to support students in other year groups. This will enable a student or parent/carers to call a teacher to support them with their work if they are stuck. This helpline will be manned by teachers from across the Archway Learning Trust, who will be able to give students subject specific advice to help them to access their work and make progress.

Partial reopening of BBA

From Monday 15th June, we will be welcoming back some of our Y10 students, in line with the guidance from the government. We have spent an enormous amount of time planning this, to ensure the safety of both our students and staff. Those students whose parents/carers wish for them to return have been sent a personalised letter, informing them when they should attend school.

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Archway Learning Trust
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Free School Meals Vouchers

Vouchers for those students receiving Free School Meals continue to be issued. If your circumstances have changed recently, and you would like to know if your child is eligible for free school meals, please contact the school office.

Full reopening of schools

At present, we have no information about when the academy will reopen to students beyond year 10. We do not receive any advance warning from the government, so find out about changes to education during the government briefings at the same time as you.

We hope to be able to welcome back more of our students in the near future, but will only do that when it is safe to do so. Please rest assured that when that happens, I will share lots of information with you about the measures we have in place to keep staff and students safe.

Students from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic backgrounds (BAME)

There is emerging evidence that people from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds have been more negatively affected by COVID-19. Whilst the reasons for this are not yet fully understood, the Government has launched an inquiry into why this is the case and research is ongoing.

Our diverse school community is one of our greatest strengths and we want to ensure that all our BAME students feel safe and supported at school. We recognise that our families may be feeling anxious at this time and if there are any particular concerns that you would like to discuss with us, that you may have read or heard in the media, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

More information about the research that the Government is currently undertaking to understand why BAME communities may be more at risk, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-review-of-disparities-in-risks-and-outcomes>

Can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support and understanding at this challenging time. I will be in touch with you all again to update you on our progress here at BBA in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S Bailey
Principal - Bluecoat Beechdale Academy



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