



13th October 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Home Learning / Blended Learning

As we near the end of our first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to keep you fully informed of our teaching plans regarding Covid-19.

Firstly, congratulations to our students for their continued maturity in their commitment to learning in these difficult times. We are pleased that our re-opening plan has been effective and thank you for your support in ensuring that no student comes onto site should they display any symptoms of Covid-19. I am delighted to inform you that to date, we have not had any staff or students who have tested positive for Covid-19.

Appreciating that there is disruption to some pupils' learning due to Covid-19, teachers are already prepared for an approach to education called 'blended learning'. This is an approach where students learn via electronic and online media as well as face-to-face teaching. This may be required should children need to suddenly self-isolate and/or if local guidance changes and there becomes a need to rely upon remote learning again. We will use Microsoft Teams as our means of communication with students. Work will be uploaded to Microsoft Teams, so please refer to our website www.bishopyoungacademy.co.uk for instructions on how to use it.

If your child is self-isolating, but not showing any symptoms, we anticipate they will be well enough to complete remote learning activities. Students should check their school email and Teams accounts regularly; after the initial two days (at the latest) teachers will be setting work aligned to that being completed in the school classroom. Work completed should be submitted to the teacher so that progress can be monitored.

If we have a positive case of Covid-19, the school may need to collapse a bubble and send students home to self-isolate and continue their learning online. If this happens, students must adhere to government guidelines of self-isolation. Failure to follow these guidelines, especially during the hours of the school day, will constitute a serious health and safety risk and bring the name of the school into disrepute.



Our remote learning plan

This has been made with our pupils and their families in mind and will:

- Be high-quality, safe and align as closely as possible with in-school provision.
- Give students the support they need to master the curriculum and make good progress.
- Follow a planned and well sequenced curriculum that allows access to high-quality online and offline resources and teaching videos and is linked to the school's curriculum expectations.
- Set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects.
- Provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher in the school or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos.
- Allow opportunities for teachers to gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum, using questions and other suitable tasks.
- Enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding.
- Be a planned programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, ideally including daily contact with teachers.

What you'll need at home

Microsoft Teams and Office 365 are used as the preferred platform for remote learning and these can be accessed on laptops, PCs and most phones and tablets. Students will be given log in details so that they can access all the digital learning resources which will mirror the learning taking place in school.

If individual students are absent from school because they are self-isolating, resources will be uploaded on Teams every day. These may take the form of pre-recorded lessons, PowerPoints, work sheets and quizzes. Staff will deliver a live remote lesson (via Teams) for students to 'attend', during the time that the students' timetabled lesson would have taken place in school. If the delivery of a 'live' lesson is not possible, a pre-recorded lesson will be shared with students, to enable them to complete the learning that would have taken place if they were at school.

Provision will be made for those students who don't have access to the internet or the appropriate technology. Paper copies of remote learning resources will be shared with students who don't have such access.

We appreciate that if this situation arises, it may present some challenges for you. We kindly ask for your support so that we can continue to provide high-quality education for your child during this time. It is important that your child engages with home learning and if there are any issues, please contact the appropriate Head of Year immediately so that we can support you.

We don't expect you to watch your child all day, and we wouldn't expect parents/carers to get involved in remote lessons in place of our teachers. But, it would be really helpful if you can take an active role in your child's learning by asking them about their day and what work they've done.



Our top tips:

- Try to encourage your child to be ready and dressed for the start of the school day, and to keep to their timetable.
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, and make it clear when the school day is over, to separate home and school life.
- Plan breaks and exercise into the day to help keep your child active.
- Please keep in touch with us and do let us know if you're having any difficulties with remote learning, or if you have any questions.

I would like to thank you for your on-going support in following the protective measures we have in place to keep the members of our school community as safe as possible during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Cole".

Rachael Cole
Head of School