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Bolingbroke
Academy

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Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come so far over the past two weeks to move our courageous and compassionate community – empowering excellence, from Wakehurst Road into your homes. Last night I felt very proud standing on my doorstep with my family to clap for our key workers across the country. Whilst this is an exceptionally challenging time it's been wonderful to see how our communities are coming together.

This letter has 4 elements: -

1. Communication
2. INSET Day – Monday 20th April 2020
3. New staff after Easter
4. Ideas for Easter holidays

1. Communication:

We recognise work through Show my Homework has not always been explicitly clear. We are working on our procedures and providing information through our parent/pupil presentation evenings. A big shout out to our Year 9 team, pupils and parents for returning their preferences this week. This means we will confirm subject with you over the first two weeks back and lessons in chosen GCSE subjects will commence on Monday 4th May. Please note normal lessons will continue until this date.

- Year 12 student/ parent presentation with Ms Orchin and Ms Gelder – Tuesday 21st April
- Year 10 student/ parent presentation with Mr Rye and Ms Murphy – Thursday 23rd April

The Year 7 and Year 8 presentation dates will follow Easter holidays.

2. INSET Day – Monday 20th April

On Monday 20th April the staff will continue with our INSET day. Please note there will be no distance learning lesson on this day. The focus of our INSET Day is training on Microsoft (MS) software:

To upskill staff on **MS teams'** functions such as Polly. Polly will allow teachers to check answers with pupils without them seeing each other's answers in the chat box. Secondly, share the functionality of MS **OneNote**. OneNote enables pupils to write their answers and for teachers to provide live feedback on the same document without sending via e-mail or switching documents. Over the next half term we will be training our pupils to use these platforms to gain confidence. It is highly likely this practice will continue even when we're physically back in school.

In addition, the INSET programme for the day will provide the time for teachers to adapt schemes of work for the summer term's distance learning.

3. Staffing

I'm delighted to share our new staff who will be joining us after the Easter holidays.

Ms Simontt-Balchin (Head of Modern Foreign Language (MFL) Department) joins us from a department with exceptional GCSE and A'level MFL outcomes. She will be joining Ms Vazquez-Lopez's Year 10 and Year 12

lessons. Ms Vazquez will be leaving us on 30th April 2020. We are incredibly grateful to her for taking on the reigns of Head of Modern Foreign Language department over the past two terms. Ms Simontt-Balchin will be updating the resources for KS3 MFL over the next half term – parents will be contacted directly.

Ms Jones joins us from an outstanding North London school whilst Ms Riley (Lead Music Teacher) goes on maternity leave. Ms Riley has been instrumental in the setting of distance learning Year 7 instrumental lessons and the work of scholars and apprentices in the past. Please do join us for our concert at 4pm on line this afternoon. If the time and technology allow we will be saying farewell to Ms Riley after the concert.

Ms Laurie joins us with a vast track record of excellent achievement at GCSE and A'level in the Sciences. She has become our new Sixth form Science lead teacher and will be joining Year 12 A'level and professional pathways lessons to introduce herself after the Easter holidays.

4. Ideas for Easter holidays

We know life will not seem so different over the next two weeks, but we've collected several resources and website links if you or your children get bored. This is intended to be supportive and is not a list for your children to have to review.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for your courage and determination to set up and facilitate the engagement of our young people in distance learning. We appreciate it has not been easy. We are grateful to you all.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Edis
Principal