

Dear Parent/Carer,

First of all may I take the opportunity to thank you for immense amount of positive feedback that you have provided to teachers in school about the quality of support and home learning instruction that has been provided already and continues to be so during the current situation. It is appreciated that we all find ourselves in a very challenging set of circumstances in terms of students and parents both organising and keeping up with work.

It is also crucially important that we are mindful of the pressures and anxieties that some students are feeling with regard to the workload of their home learning, as well as their ability or otherwise to complete this in their home environment. It is rather worrying when teachers receive emails from students in their classes at 4.00am and other ungodly hours! There must be a balance. We are in for a marathon with the current situation, not a sprint.

The focus of today's email is therefore about mental health and wellbeing. We also have a focus on Safeguarding as we feel it is very important that all parents and students know how and who to contact with any safeguarding concerns.

It is with all this in mind that we are producing some revised guidelines that have been communicated to staff today in order to be put in place for Monday 20th April and beyond.

What will happen during the 'Easter Holiday'?

- No new work will be set. It is important that all of our students feel that the routine when they would have had their Easter holiday is different to the past two weeks. They must get the chance to relax and switch off from school work. They can continue to catch up and do work if they want to, but there is no expectation of this and no new work will be set.

How will work be set after the 'Easter Holiday'?

- Staff will **ONLY** communicate the work being set through ClassCharts. The intention of this is to reduce the daily load of emails that students may be facing and being overwhelmed by.
- It is important, therefore, that instruction and guidance given to students through ClassCharts is clear and suitably structured so that students can access their work at the appropriate level.

- The work set on ClassCharts by each subject will take an appropriate amount of time for that subject over a week.
- Tasks set on ClassCharts will advise students the amount of time they should expect to spend on each task.
- It is important that students only spend the advised time and then stop, even if the learning is not complete at that point.
- Staff will plan learning so that there is a natural lesson of consolidation at the end of every 2-3 lesson sequence. This will allow some students to revisit and test themselves on completed work whilst it may give other students the opportunity to catch up with the required learning which had been set over the 2-3 lessons. This is an important feature of the revised guidance as it is vital to acknowledge the different ways/routines that students may have in their home environment to actually accessing their work remotely.
- The work set by teachers will, as far as possible not require students to print anything off to ensure that no students are disadvantaged, where these facilities may not be available.
- Teachers will think very carefully about the setting of deadlines so that students can manage their own learning and where deadlines are given, it will be clear that they are weekly/fortnightly/monthly or otherwise.
- Where work set is project based, clear instruction will be given on ClassCharts as to specific targets for daily or weekly completion of parts of this project. However, it is important to reiterate again that students should not be spending any more than their allocated lesson time on pieces or sections of project work.
- All staff will continue to ensure that work set is in line with statutory curriculum offer and ensuring that we do not overload students.

What if my child is struggling to complete the work?

- There will be no sanctions or implied sanctions for non-completion of work, but it is important that parents and students alike recognise the importance of keeping up to date with and completing their learning tasks set.
- Work isn't being set by email so that email becomes the way in which your child can seek support and advice from their subject teachers.

My child is just not doing any school work:

- Where it is evident that there has been no engagement with the home learning set in subjects or across the curriculum then measures are in place for the school to pursue and insist on regular contact with home in order to quality assure the learning that is taking place. This may, in turn lead to significantly increased intervention measures being put in place for some students once school resumes as normal.

How can I ensure that my child is remaining physically and mentally healthy?

- It is important that within the routine of the 'Home Learning Day' students break up the amount of continuous screen time with some different activities, for example; partaking of a walk; cycle or run as per government guidance. They could also do an online fitness activity or simply spend some relaxation time reading for pleasure.
- One thing to be careful with is the amount of screen time being exacerbated by students moving from home learning screen time to X-Box, phone or similar screen time. It is probably important, more than ever, for this time to be regulated a little more!
- As your child is completing more work online we wanted to ensure you have very clear reporting routes so you/your child can raise any concerns whilst they are online. As well as reporting concerns back to school by email or phone we would also like to signpost you to:
 - [Childline](#) - for support
 - [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
 - [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse
- Parents and carers may at this time choose to supplement your child's school work with support from online companies and in some cases individual tutors. We would like to emphasise the importance of securing online support from a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children.

Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC

- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

Online Support for Health and Wellbeing

- Young Minds - <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
- Kooth – <https://www.kooth.com/>

Key contacts for Safeguarding at Balshaw's and Outside Agency Support

Emergency Support

The Children's Social Care Customer Service Centre	cypreferrals@lancashire.gov.uk	0300 123 6720
Emergency Duty Team	cypreferrals@lancashire.gov.uk	0300 123 6721/3
Lancashire Police Emergency Non Emergency	https://reportitonline.lancashire.police.uk/NdsPublicEngagementUi/index?force=lancashireconstabulary	999 101
NHS Emergency Non Emergency Covid 19 Advice	https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/	999 111 111

School Contacts

Role	Name	Contact Number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Angela Wilson Deputy Headteacher Pastoral Care	01772 421009	a.wilson@balshaws.org.uk
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Jonathan Morgan Deputy Headteacher	01772 421009	j.morgan@balshaws.org.uk

	Curriculum and Standards		
Headteacher	Steven Haycocks	01772 421009	s.haycocks@balshaws.org.uk
SENDCO	Marie Rogerson	01772 421009	m.rogerson@balshaws.org.uk
Chair of Governors	Keith Woodcock	01772 421009	k.woodcock@balshaws.org.uk
Safeguarding Governor	Irene Evans	01772 421009	i.evans@balshaws.org.uk
School website			www.balshaws.org.uk
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