

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome Back:

Welcome back after the half term break. The weather has been glorious and I hope that you have all been able to enjoy some time outside.

We are now back into the swing of remote learning again and all of your child's work for this week has been set on ClassCharts and they should be continuing with their studies using the guidance and support materials provided here.

Enhanced Remote Learning:

As I mentioned before half term, staff at school are going to be trained over the next two weeks to be able to record lessons for students to be able watch and listen to from the Stream Channels that they have as part of their Office 365 Suite that is linked to their emails. (Don't forget that as the family of a student of Balshaw's you can download all of the Office Suite of applications for free on up to five of your own devices). This will enable teachers to introduce more challenging new learning.

For the past 34 days of learning (it may feel longer, but it's 34 days!) teachers have adapted the curriculum to deliver learning that students should be able to manage with the supporting materials. We are at a point now where we need students to be accessing more challenging aspects of the curriculum so we hope that this will allow this to happen as well as to explore learning solutions that we can put in place from September if needed.

Increased opening of school to Year 10:

For Year 10 students we will begin a series of reintegration meetings starting week beginning 15th June and parents of Year 10 students should watch for the email following later this week with a date and time for this meeting. This follows the latest guidance from the government:

On 24 May the Prime Minister announced that secondary schools should plan on the basis that from the week commencing 15 June, they can invite year 10 pupil back into school for some face-to-face support with their teachers, subject to the government's 5 tests being met.

*We are asking secondary schools to offer this face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 pupils, **which should remain the predominant mode of education during this term** for pupils in these year groups.*

Our assessment, based on the latest scientific and medical advice, is that we need to continue to control the numbers attending school to reduce the risk of increasing transmission. Therefore, schools are able to have a quarter of the year 10 in school at any one time.

This will be in addition to the pupils that we have had in school throughout the duration of the lockdown.

I am fully aware that South Ribble, Preston, Chorley and Central Lancaster are currently experiencing the peak of Covid-19 infections at the moment and Year 10 and their parents will be offered the chance to have this meeting remotely if they would prefer.

New Appointments:

We are very pleased to have made a number of appointments in recent weeks.

- Mr Bailey is returning to Balshaw's as a Teacher of Science.
- Mrs Singleton de Carranza is promoted to become Curriculum Leader of MFL.
- Mrs Harwood is joining the MFL department permanently.
- Mrs Wright will be joining the MFL department as a maternity cover.
- Mr Shannon will be joining us as our new Curriculum Leader for History.

We are also shortly hoping to increase our team of Teaching Assistants and this week we are interviewing two candidates for the role of Chaplain at Balshaw's and Youth Pastor at St Andrew's. Both of these candidates will be delivering an assembly on the theme of "Hope in a time of Lockdown" and all of our students are invited to attend this 'virtual assembly' at 10:30 on Wednesday and Thursday this week. They will receive a link to a Zoom meeting in their emails tomorrow.

Other news:

I'm sure that you will all have heard of the terrible news of the house fire on Springfield Road in Wade Hall over the weekend. Although no-one was injured many of you will know that it has affected the family of Balshavians. I know that you will be praying for them and there has been a fantastic support response from all the people in that area.

Although it has taken weeks longer than planned with lockdown, our senior Year 10 and 11 boys' toilets have been completely refitted and are ready for use. With students not in school we are also refurbishing some of the Science labs.

Anyway - that's it for now. Keep on motivating your children with their work - it will be hard with the sun shining. Just hope that you don't get a wasp flying into the room - as any teacher knows, a wasp in the room can drive a coach and horses through your calm, productive learning environment!

Best wishes

Steve Haycocks

**HEADTEACHER
BALSHAW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. (Psalm 119, vs 105)