



Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

Ref: 3093 LMA

9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents,

## Spring Term Update

### Ask Twice

More often than not, when we ask someone how they are feeling the response is that they are fine. The vast majority of times this may well be the case. However, as last week was Children's Mental Health Week, we want to encourage you to ask your family, friends and colleagues twice. We are all so busy trying to juggle the demands of the lockdown but taking the time to press the pause button and asking again, with interest, and being considerate of the environment you are asking in, may help someone to open up for the first time. This is one of the reasons we place such importance on our regular personal mentor meetings, so we can provide support related to learning but more importantly check in on how your children are feeling.

### Contact with our students

In addition to the daily assembly, next week (after the break) we will roll out a live tutor session for all year groups. These sessions will take place once a week at 8.50am, prior to the assembly and students will be informed via an announcement on ClassCharts. This is an opportunity for students to interact with their peers in a supportive environment and this has been well received by students and staff in the trial sessions we have completed. This will be launched on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> with an assembly and tutor session for everyone, starting at 9.00am.

In addition, the trial of live seminars for Year 10 and 11 across a range of subjects continues. The purpose of the seminars is to consolidate the learning from the previous week/lessons, address any student misconceptions and provide feedback on work submitted. It is not intended to be live teaching of new material. They have proved to be a great way for students to raise questions or queries that can be answered by staff directly. Equally important, the Google Chat allow students to support each other as they would do within a normal classroom environment.

### Engagement

We are seeing a really positive level on engagement from our students across the year groups and we appreciate the parental support we have received. The majority of students are working incredibly hard to submit work and complete it to the best of their ability. We know and understand that some parents are





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struggling to balance their own work commitments alongside checking their child's engagement and quality of work. We understand there may be other barriers to your son/daughter completing their work, for example, they may be ill on a particular day. However, if we do contact you in any way such as text message or email to inform you that your child is yet to log on to the assembly or Google Meet, please be reassured it is with the best of intentions to help keep you informed. Any messages, emails or phone calls are all about us working together to support our students and your children. Both parents and students you have access to ClassCharts and should be able to track the award of achievement for work is being submitted or not and the quality of work. Please contact us if you have any issues around accessing or using the ClassCharts on [enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org](mailto:enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org)

## Working Remotely and Attendance in School

To ensure that we maintain strong communication it is important that parents contact school on the first day their child is unable to complete their remote learning tasks due to illness. The same applies if students and/or families are required to isolate due to Covid symptoms, they are identified as a close contact or there is a positive test result within the household.

Whilst we would love all students to be in school, unfortunately this cannot be the case at the minute. We are receiving an increasing number of parental requests for students to attend school because students lack a routine or engagement in work is not what a parent expects. Unfortunately, in most cases, we have to repeat that the Government and Lancashire County Council are advising that parents, except those of the children who are vulnerable, should only send children to schools where it is not possible to keep them at home.

## Ways to Wellbeing

Last week was 'Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Week' and to further support our work in this area we are hosting a wellbeing focus day on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February, when we will give all students and their families the opportunity on the day and during the half-term break to be away from the screen and involved in activities under the headings:

**Be relaxed**

**Be social!**

**Be creative!**

**Be active!**

Later on, we will also send you further information regarding this focus day to students and parents this week.

We look forward to hearing how well the students engage over the next few weeks and we have already had some fantastic entries for our the recent 'Around the World Challenge' ran by the PE department. We are rightly very proud of our students' engagement in their school work and wider activities.

We have also developed a number of challenges and a 'Read, Watch, Do' programme that has been shared on our website <https://www.burscoughprioryacademy.org/our-school/latest-updates/read> and with



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students via ClassCharts, to help give students a break from their screens as well as to enrich the remote learning offer.

## **Half-Term**

We break up for half-term on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February and then school will be closed to from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February. We will return to offering the in school and remote learning provision from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Please use this time to take a break from on screen learning, relax a little and safely connect with family and friends.

Your support during the term and since September has been outstanding and we truly appreciate it. As always, take care and stay safe in the days and weeks to come.

Yours faithfully,

*L MacLaren*

Mrs MacLaren  
**Head of School**



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