



Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

Ref: 3237 LMA

11 February 2022

Dear Parent,

End of Term Update – February 2022

With half-term about to start, we are finally starting to see longer, lighter days and it is beginning to feel that Spring is finally on its way. This term has been bursting at the seams with a wide variety of learning activities both in and out of the classroom.

Enforced Closure – Friday 11 February

We certainly hope that everyone who felt the impact of the power cuts in local community was able to get some support and that you are all safe and well.

Thank you for your support to clear the site yesterday afternoon, the right decision considering the subsequent intermittent power supply and the effect that this had on the school's ability to run safely.

Later on in the afternoon, we had a stable power supply for over two hours, hence the message to parents that we planned to continue with the Year 9 Options Evening. A further power cut in the village meant that school was in darkness and it was unsafe to welcome visitors to an event. Whilst very inconvenient, I am sure that you will appreciate that it was a pragmatic decision in light of the situation.

It was with regret that we had to make the decision to close school and as it should be, it is always a last resort. The engineers are in school as we write, repairing the damage to our power and ICT infrastructure caused by the outage.

Reflecting on the term so far ...

Year 11

Following their first set of practice exams before Christmas, our Year 11 students received their exam results during our 'Brown envelope' afternoon. This marks the countdown to their final examinations beginning in May and the message was one of making the most of the time and planning in effective revision with 'regular and often' being the key over the coming months. All students have been given detailed feedback from their subject teachers about next steps and we will be providing both generic revision guidance and subject specific input in the lead up to their next practice exams in March. They will receive their next examination timetable shortly after the break. We welcomed further clarity from exam boards this week



Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

that we hope will help focus remaining study time. Teachers will be talking students through these changes in the coming weeks and preparing them as much as possible to take these into account in their revision and exam preparation.

As a group, they really are maturing into the school's role models. Well done.

Year 9

While our Year 11 students are nearing the end of their journey with us and are completing their college applications, our Year 9 students are thinking about the first step in selecting their Key Stage 4 options. The evening will be rescheduled for Thursday 24 February at 5.30pm. All of the arrangements remain the same and you do not need to rebook your time slot. The deadlines for submission of choices will be discussed on the evening but will be put back by one week. Following choices being made, students will have a one to one meeting to discuss their choices to ensure they are supportive of their interests, strengths and future aspirations.

Year 10

Our Year 10 Parents' Evening in January provided an opportunity to review their learning progress so far and discuss next steps and although it may seem a long way away, our Year 10 students are getting ready for their period of work experience in May and have been securing their placements. Those students who have not been able to secure a placement will be supported in school during our Review Day on Monday 21 February.

Year 7 & 8

Our Year 7 and 8 students have really benefited so far this year from the continuity of being in school every day and have finally been able to experience the practical elements of learning along with finding their feet in social groups. With progress reports being sent home after the break, along with their Review Day meeting, it is pleasing to see so many positive engagement and progress reports. It has also been a joy to see so many Year 7 and 8 students get involved in the extra-curricular clubs on offer.

Mid-term Review Day – Monday 21 February

Monday 21 February is our mid-term Review Day. This is when we invite students into school for a one to one mentoring appointment, reflecting on the goals they set themselves at the start of the term back in September and the progress they have made towards them and other aspects of their educational journey so far. Students have been using tutor time over the last week to start this process of reflection and re-planning, which we have previously found to provide valuable time, clarity of focus and targeted support



BURSCOUGH PRIORY ACADEMY

Burscough Priory Academy,
Trevor Road,
Burscough,
Lancashire L40 7RZ

Telephone: 01704 893259

Email: enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org

Website: www.burscoughprioryacademy.org

Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

for the year yet to come. Students will be expected to complete a Lateral Flow Test and report the result before coming to their appointment. A separate letter has been sent with your child's appointment time and additional details.

Spring 2 – Tuesday 22 February

In line with the published calendar, we will be closing for our half term break this Friday at 3.15pm and look forward to welcoming back our school community on Monday 21 February for their appointment and then for school to reopen at 8.45am on Tuesday 22 February. While many COVID measures are being relaxed, we feel that our previous in-school measures have contained the virus within the school community and have allowed us to continue teaching all students in school since Christmas. However, with less people testing regularly, we would like to remind you of the importance of identifying a positive COVID case at the earliest point, so reducing the spread of the virus within the school. To this end, we would like to remind you that it remains an option for your child to continue to wear a mask.

Important Dates

Looking ahead to next term, please make a note of the following key events during our Spring 2 calendar that may be relevant to you:

- Thursday 24 March -Year 9 Options Evening (rescheduled)
- Thursday 3 March – World Book Day and Creatives Evening
- Thursday 10 March – Year 11 Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 16 March – PSHCE day
- Monday 21 March to Thursday 1 April – Year 11 Practice Exams

Safety Awareness

As we move into half term, we have been focusing on how we can keep ourselves and others safe in all aspects of our lives. Throughout tutor time, students have been thinking about and discussing a range of potentially unsafe behaviours and how they can make safer choices in relations to areas such as road and rail safety, drug awareness and social behaviour in our local community.

Vape Concern

We are concerned at the rise in students choosing to 'vape' right across the local area. Recent research has found that there has been an increase in lung injuries and death caused by Vaping and while they do contain less toxins than regular cigarettes, they are still full of nicotine; which is highly addictive, raises your blood



BURSCOUGH PRIORY ACADEMY

Burscough Priory Academy,
Trevor Road,
Burscough,
Lancashire L40 7RZ

Telephone: 01704 893259

Email: enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org

Website: www.burscoughprioryacademy.org

Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

pressure and is being linked to chronic lung disease and asthma. As a school we have a responsibility to educate our young people on the dangers of vaping and in conjunction with parents, support our young people to make better choices. We would like to be very clear that any student caught with a vape in school will be treated in the same way as if they had any other smoking paraphernalia on them and this will result in a minimum sanction of a fixed term exclusion. We thank you for your support in making sure your children do not bring any prohibited items into school.

And Finally...

We can reflect on a term that until the very end, has had no large-scale disruption, some of which we anticipated and planned for. Students have, without personal illness, been able to participate in learning in person and with our specialist staff. Our reading programme is really blossoming, there was an excellent PSHCE day covering contemporary topics that impact our students and it has been lovely to see students participate in events and clubs that we have yearned for so long to be able to run.

Again, thank you for your support as we move through another testing phase of the pandemic. On behalf of all of the staff, we would like to wish you all a safe, well rested and enjoyable break. We look forward to the start of Spring Term 2.

Yours faithfully,

L MacLaren

Mrs MacLaren
Headteacher

