



Beths Grammar School

an 11-18 selective school with academy status

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Dear Parents and Carers of Year 10 students

School Closure Expectations for Year 10

Due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus COVID-19 we find ourselves in the unusual position where boys are now expected to “work remotely” from home in order to continue with their learning and study. Naturally this is not ideal however this decision is one that has been made at a national level as we are obliged to follow the instructions set down by Government in the interest of public safety. It is important that we all work together to get the best for the boys and tackle this situation with a solution driven and forward thinking attitude.

With the planned Easter break shortly approaching, this presents a natural window to close schools. Assuming that your son is of good health and fit to work he should see the closure of the school as an opportunity to consolidate his GCSE learning. Furthermore, the time can also be used to start preparing revision notes of their learning so far in the first year of the GCSE subjects that they will take next year; especially as students now have a better appreciation of how much revision is needed. There should be no excuse for them doing nothing at home whilst we await further instruction from the Department of Education.

In this situation I am well aware that many boys who are self-disciplined and keen to do well will use this time wisely. However, I am realistic that there will also be a number of boys who will struggle to stay motivated and when outside the normal school environment may take a very relaxed approach to study and exam preparation. You will know which category your son falls into. If he falls into the latter category then he will need close supervision and constant reinforcements of the need to study.

What “Remote learning and working from home” looks like for a Year 10 student?

To support you with understanding what exactly “working remotely from home” should look like for your son I have provided you with a list of activities he should be engaged in whilst working from home:

- **Check show my homework on a regularly (daily) basis.** Teachers will be giving instructions to students on what they should be completing. Some staff may ask your son to send them a copy of their work and this should be done using their school email which is accessed through Fronter. Students will be set deadlines to complete each task and we advise them to stick to these in order to ensure they don't feel overwhelmed. We do expect them to keep their brains working but also don't expect them to overwork themselves.
- Use **Fronter** to access and complete lesson resources provided by staff at Beths. Please contact me if you do not have log in details. These were given to all students recently in morning registration. There is such a wealth of resources here so please use them to your advantage. Teachers will be making reference to this.
- Prepare **study notes for each topic (this may be mind maps or flash cards for example).** Read over your notes for all sections of the specification covered in Year 10. GCSEs are a two year course, so this time presents a good opportunity to review the learning so far and prepare revision materials to work from next summer.
- Use the website “Physics and Maths tutor” which is excellent for accessing past papers and mark schemes. They also provide revision notes for each core subject. <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/past-papers/>
- Use **YouTube for taught lessons** – some videos can be excellent (particularly for the core subjects). Simply type in the name and exam board of the subject you wish to study and make sure it is for the new 9-1 GCSEs.

- **Wider reading** – students should ensure that they spend time reading in order to maintain and further their literacy skills. Reading online academic journals or quality literature will be beneficial in helping them to develop the literacy skills that they will need for GCSE and A-levels in all subjects.

Early Entry subjects

Year 10 students are in the fortunate position of only having two subjects at GCSE this year. We are awaiting concrete guidance from exam boards as to how the grades will be applied this year. Once we have the precise details we will communicate with you and your son our intentions. Our main intention is to ensure that all students achieve the grade for which they have worked for many hours. We would advise that until we have this information, students should focus on their learning in the other GCSE subjects.

Work Experience

Due to the current situation, many business and organisations will not be in a position to deal with any work experience requests and the future for many of them is uncertain. Therefore, we are putting the Work Experience programme on hold. Students are not required to continue looking for placements at this time. Once the school is able to re-open we will re-assess the situation.

Keeping in contact with the school

During this time we will be keeping in regular contact with parents about developments in this ongoing situation. We ask that you continue to check emails regularly. As always, you are welcome to contact me at any time regarding any questions you may have. If these are subject specific then please direct them to the class teacher (email addresses can be found on the school website). Should you wish to speak to me about any other issues then you can contact me directly at msclarke@beths.beley.sch.uk

Keeping Children Safe and Wellbeing

The Government have banned “mass gatherings” and advise everyone to stop any “non-essential contact”. For our boys this basically means that they should not be meeting up during the day. Social media, I am sure, will come in useful to allow them to communicate, but in the interests of public safety we ask that you ensure that your son is home and completing the tasks above.

Similarly, it is important that we all take care of our wellbeing and mental health at this time. We would encourage students to spend time in the garden (where possible) or take part in the various free online exercise activities on social media. It is possible to stay active while maintaining social distancing requirements. Students can also use social media and technology to keep in contact with friends online, for example through video calling. Furthermore, our school website has links on the wellbeing page to support students during this time and I would like to remind you that it is still possible to contact charities such as Childline.

Children of Key workers

Only the students who have parents that come under the Key Worker list (as specified on the Government website) are eligible to attend school during this period of school closure and we will have staff on site for this. We also appreciate that you may have enough trust and confidence in your son that he is able to stay at home unsupervised. The Government also advise that if this is the case, then your son should remain at home.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully



Miss R Clarke
Head of Year 10