



No.15

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Welcome back!

Clearly it is not the start any of us were expecting or that any of us would want. We are very disappointed for all year groups but especially for students in years eleven and thirteen where it remains very unclear what form of assessment will be required this summer. **We will continue to do all we can to support all our students and their families throughout this difficult period and remain open to vulnerable children and those of key workers.**

## Communication

- We will continue to issue **'The County Courier'** every **Friday** and this will be the main way we will communicate with you.
- If we need to contact groups of students, or the whole school, on an urgent issue, we will use **Parentmail**.
- In the main, if there are **concerns about the work your child is doing**, the relevant Head of Year will contact you. A Head of Department or subject teacher might also contact you in some cases, having agreed with the Head of Year that this is sensible. We hope that this will prove to be an efficient way to proceed.
- The monthly editions of **'The Accolade'** will continue to be published. We found in the last lockdown that celebrating the work students produced at home and their participation in online extra-curricular activities gave everyone a boost and kept 'the County spirit' very much alive.
- As you will see below, **scheduled parents' evenings** are going ahead.
- If **you need to contact us at any time**, you can still ring us during our normal opening hours. We have fewer staff in so if you get the answer machine, please leave a message and we will get back to you.

Alternatively, the [countyupper@burvedu.org](mailto:countyupper@burvedu.org) email is being monitored from 7am to 10pm, seven days a week. It is particularly important

**that any safeguarding concerns are reported promptly using this address.**

- Advice on **national and local helplines** can be found on our website [here](#)

## Remote Learning

- Our **e-safety and acceptable use policies** apply at all times.
- We are very happy to continue to **loan out laptops**. If you email [iprice@burvedu.org](mailto:iprice@burvedu.org), he will arrange the collection of a device directly with you.
- If you have an **old Windows laptop** that is no longer being used, you can **convert it into a Chromebook**. This brings new life into an old device and will **enable a student to access all the Google G Suite applications**. You can do this yourself, or **we can do it for you** using the [Neverware CloudReady](#) software (free for home use).
- Please note that both the **PlayStation and Xbox** consoles have a **built-in web browser**. If you plug in a standard USB keyboard and mouse you can access Google Classroom (if you have internet access). You're welcome to borrow a keyboard and mouse from school if you need them.
- Our students' work will continue to be set through their **Google Classroom**. When they have **live lessons by 'Google Meet'** they will receive a link in the Google classroom and all communication also goes directly to their school email account. We encourage students to join the sessions live but we understand that this is not always possible. All the **lessons are recorded** and after the live sessions, staff will upload them into the Google Classroom for students to watch.
- Mr Price emailed all students yesterday to remind them that we do have a folder with some tech tips and tutorials in this [Google Drive shared](#)



folder. Parents and students can email Mr Price directly with any queries.

### Year group News

#### Year 9

- Letters for the **parents' evening** were sent out on Monday and the booking system is open. We encourage you to make some appointments.
- Our **options process** was due to commence during the week before half term with an options fayre on the evening of Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March. We are moving the whole process back a week in the hope that students may be back in school. However, in case we cannot run an evening in school on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, we are preparing a virtual evening. **Students should therefore not worry about how they will make their GCSE choices.**
- Our year nine **interim assessments** will still be completed as planned to cover the period from November to February.

#### Year 10

- The **parents' evenings** scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> January and the 3<sup>rd</sup> February will still go ahead using the schoolcloud software. All parents will receive a letter by Parentmail on Monday and the booking system will go live from 7am on Tuesday (12<sup>th</sup>).
- This term's **interim assessments** will still be completed as planned to cover the period from November to February.

#### Year 11

- Until we receive **guidance on how GCSE grades are to be awarded** this summer, our staff will continue with the content of the courses. Once we receive some guidance, we will obviously adapt where necessary and **students will be told of any assessments that are specifically to be used to help determine grades.**
- At present, we intend to run the **parents' evenings** as scheduled for next month. However, we will review this when we know what is happening. We certainly **remain ready to help with students' future plans at any stage.**

#### Year 12

- It is still our intention to run the **parents' evening** on 4<sup>th</sup> March. In the meanwhile, we remain confident that our year twelve will continue to do well and to benefit from having done a term's pre-'A' level work last summer.
- Next week's **virtual assembly** for year twelve will be from Mr Kemp concerning **the UCAS process** for applying to university, with particular reference to the Oxbridge programme.

#### Year 13

- Until we receive **guidance on how 'A' level grades are to be awarded** this summer, our staff will continue with the content of the courses. Once we receive some guidance, we will obviously adapt where necessary and **students will be told of any assessments that are specifically to be used to help determine grades.**
- **Technical Award students** will be sent the final arrangements for their exams before.
- We are **available for any student to contact** us who feels they need any advice about their future plans. We recognise how difficult it is for them to make plans when things are so uncertain and will continue to do all we can to support them.

#### Extra-curricular activities

As you may know from your children, **some clubs have already moved online** and we encourage your children to keep engaging with them. We will put together **a list for next Friday's edition.**

#### Turning Point

As part of our series offering links to health and wellbeing advice, you can access information from Turning Point [here](#)

