



BEDFORD
FREE SCHOOL

www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk

6th January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers & Pupils

We are truly appreciative of the efforts that families will be making in these challenging times to support their children and their learning at home over the next few weeks. Please rest assured that we will continue to support you and your child in any way we can through this ongoing and difficult time.

We've updated our dedicated COVID 19 page on our website. This outlines important contact details, information about remote learning, as well as support and advice for pupils and parents. It will also enable you to easily find any letters and information previously sent home. You can access this here: <https://www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk/covid-19/>

Whilst work is being set remotely, online, our staff will continue to look out for all members of our community's welfare. If your child has questions about specific subjects then they may message their teachers through Google Classroom or speak to them at the end of the virtual lessons. If they have other worries they may email their tutors or Pastoral Lead.

And of course, our wonderful Pastoral Leaders are available for you too if you need to get in touch with us directly. Please find their contact details below:

Year 7	Mrs Runnegar-Clark Email: arunnegar-clark@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk 01234 332275 07762 413440
Year 9 and Year 10	Ms Robinson Email: lrobinson@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk 01234 332278 07377 232187
Year 8 and Year 11	Mrs Costin-Webb: Email: ccostin-webb@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk 01234 332292 07783 015976

Remote learning and Google Classroom:

What should pupils do each day?

- Wake up bright and early and follow their normal school day routine
- Go to classroom.google.com and sign in using their school-based Google account
- Take the Online Morning Register before 9 am

T: 01234 332299 E: info@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk Bedford Free School, 12-16 Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AD

RESPECT • HONESTY • HIGH EXPECTATIONS

- Look at their timetable for the day and check those classrooms on Google
- Complete the work that has been set by teachers, sticking to their school timetable where they can and taking their breaks

In addition to setting work via Google Classroom and to support students working independently from home, we will aim to provide some live teaching via Google Meet. To access these meetings, pupils need to log in to their Google Classroom for that lesson and follow the instructions given by their teacher. The Meet link will be displayed at the top of the class stream page.

We have produced the following guidance documents to help you support your child to access and use Google Classrooms and Google Meet:

- [Guidance Document](#)
- [Google Classroom Parent Letter](#)
- [Pupil Code of Conduct for Online Lessons](#)

My child tells me they can't log-on to school systems. Who do I contact?

The majority of pupils have logged into Google Classroom on several occasions during the autumn term and should know their passwords.

If they need any support with their login, please contact Mrs Logan by email on elogan@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk or telephone 01234 332290.

We understand that not having access to IT equipment such as laptops can make remote learning more challenging. If you need support with this, we have a limited amount of equipment which we may be able to loan to you. Please email: info@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk

Keeping safe online:

We recognise that pupils will once again be spending additional time online. We want to remind you that it is essential that we all consider the safety of the children whilst working online.

There are a number of places of support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including:

- [Internet matters](#)– for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#)– for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#)– for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#)– for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#)– for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)– advice for parents and carers

During this time, it is important that children have very clear reporting routes in place so they can raise any concerns whilst online. As well as reporting routes back to school we also believe children should be aware of age-appropriate practical support from the likes of:

- [Childline](#)– for support
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)– to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#)– for advice on making a report about online abuse

Managing our Mental Health & Staying Well

Mind have created a guide for people to advise them on ways of managing our mental health during a virus outbreak. Please see link to the guide below.

- [Mind](#)

Public Health England have also updated their [advice](#) to support mental health. This includes the [Every Mind Matters](#) platform with specific advice on maintaining good mental wellbeing. You can also find additional links and information on our website.

Finally, I want to say thank you for all of your support and understanding. We know many of you will be juggling working from home with reassuring your children, supporting them in understanding and completing the work set, and attempting to find a new balance and structure to your days.

Please do stay in touch with us to let us know how you are getting on. Should you have any questions or need any assistance, my team and I are here to support you and your family in any way we can.

Keep safe and stay well.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Blake', written in a cursive style.

Tim Blake
Principal