

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the second week of the Summer Term. It was clear from the Prime Minister's speech on Monday that lockdown is likely to continue for the foreseeable future but we of course remain open as an independent Special School.

My thanks to students for their engagement with online learning and it is important that momentum with this is maintained so heartfelt thanks to parents/carers for your support with this too.

We are updating this Coronavirus update regularly so do please keep checking our website for information as required.

1. From Karen Capell, School Business Manager

- 1.1 I can reassure you that I am doing everything possible to ensure we are fully compliant with all of the advice and guidance from Government, local government, Public Health England, and many other sources.
- 1.2 Premises are safe and clean and I am ensuring that there is additional cleaning and sanitising of public areas and regularly touched surfaces.
- 1.3 I have ensured we have safety signs reminding people about social distancing markers on the floors to show 2 metres, and prompting regular use of sanitisers which are on a central table in reception and available to all.

2. From Fiona Hims, School Principal

- 2.1 I carry out a daily whole school risk assessment and that is signed off by me and the CEO to demonstrate all checks have been done to show that we can open and operate safely.
- 2.2 We have carried out individual risk assessments for all of our students to ensure they are safe when attending school and to confirm that they are safe when staying at home. We would encourage attendance at school and this briefing note is intended to reassure you that it is safe for your child to attend.
- 2.3 We carry out safe and well checks throughout the school week to ensure everyone is keeping safe, even if they are not currently attending school.
- 2.4 We take temperatures of students and staff on arrival using a safe distance method

3. Support from Warwickshire County Council and Birmingham City Council

- 3.1 We have a whole lever arch file of information and daily updates from Warwickshire County Council where we implement guidance from them.
- 3.2 We have links to additional support for families, so please get in touch if you need assistance and we can direct you to the relevant information.
- 3.3 We are in regular contact with Birmingham City Council and additional support is available to families in this region requiring help, including

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referrals to the Education Psychology Service. Please contact school if you require any further information.

4. Support from Head of Teaching

- 4.1 Regular work is being provided to students who remain at home to support learning in science, English and Maths together with SAE's to allow completed work to be returned to teaching staff for marking.
- 4.2 This continues throughout both schools with some work being emailed where possible at the request of parents and carers and we are continuing to support students who were due to take their exams and qualifications this summer.
- 4.3 To support our students, parents and carers with home learning, we have set up links with two teacher-developed secondary home learning resources designed to engage secondary students aged 11 - 16 and help them learn and study outside of their usual classroom environment. Both of these resources are completely *free to download and use* and include video lessons, worksheets and activities. With these resources, you can be confident that students will remain engaged and challenged throughout this period of social distancing and isolation.
 - 4.3.1 Oak National Academy provide a classroom and resource hub created by teachers. A range of subjects are covered including maths and English. All lessons are free to use and can be accessed from a computer, tablet or phone.
 - 4.3.2 BBC Bitesize is a long established teaching aid that has daily lessons in all subjects and links to other relevant websites. This has been refreshed and improved since the start of the pandemic.
- 4.4 Please have a look at the sites and begin to familiarise yourselves with the way they work. To access the links from the Values Academy website, please click on 'Students' followed by 'Online Resources', from here you will find a link to Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize. By following these links you will access to a range of subjects, video lessons, resources that are written by teachers and specialists in their fields. If you prefer not to access sites through the Values Academy website then you can use the addresses below to access from a computer, tablet or phone.
<https://www.thenational.academy/>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>
- 4.5 Students who remain in school at both our Birmingham and Nuneaton sites have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities and workshops supporting their curriculum needs and social development. All of the activities are designed and planned to keep our students safe following government guidelines and advice.
- 4.6 So far this summer term, as part of our continuing Values provision, students have been working in small groups looking at environmental issues affecting our world today allowing students to express themselves and any concerns they are experiencing in these difficult times. We have also been looking at positive outcomes such as the fundraising that people around the world are doing, and how the use of social media is changing. Our students are really benefitting from having this outlet and contributing by making displays for the Schools. We have also been planting out fruit and vegetable bulbs in our outside spaces enabling students to influence their physical environment Sports and physical activities have continued across both Schools with Badminton, Basketball, Football, Table Tennis and Circuit Training.

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- 4.7 Lifeskills and cooking is a popular choice for our students and we have been designing and making healthy meals and snacks on a regular basis.
- 4.8 Science, Maths, English and Art activities have further developed students confidence with individual activities being agreed with students following their own interests and reinforcing the curriculum areas.
- 4.9 The Schools also have the benefit of Blue Whale studios working with the students for 1 day each week offering workshops in Music Technology, Animation, Photoshop, Webpage design and 3D modelling.

We will be in touch next week with a further update, but until then stay safe and well. Please do not hesitate to contact me at our Nuneaton School if you have any questions.

All good wishes



Fiona Hims
School Principal

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