



BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

*Week ending Thursday 7 May 2020
From Jonathan Maddox, Headteacher*

UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNMENT - *understood to be due on Sunday*

The news as I write is that on Sunday the Prime Minister will set out his plans for starting to lift the lockdown. If, as is anticipated, he includes reference to the reopening or partial reopening of secondary schools then the Leadership Team will work hard to ensure that our School is ready to receive students for when we are able to reopen. It is to be hoped that sufficient time will be allowed to plan appropriately, if the circumstances of the return require us to make significant special arrangements. It is probable that they will. We need to ensure that the reopening will be as calm as possible so that students and staff are, as far as is possible, at ease with what will be a difficult and anxious time for everyone.

NO INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS AT ALL THIS SCHOOL YEAR

As each week passes, the Leadership Team evaluates the situation and adjusts its decisions accordingly. I can now confirm that there will be no internal examinations for **any** year-group for the remainder of this School year, regardless of when and how we reopen. The decision was already clear for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 but the door was left open in the hope that it might be possible to run Year 12 examinations in some form in order to inform our determination of predicted A-Level grades. The grades are required for students now in Year 12 who wish to make a university application in the Autumn. I confirm that there will be no Year 12 internal examinations.

DETERMINATION OF PREDICTED A-LEVEL GRADES FOR STUDENTS IN YEAR 12

In the absence of examinations to contribute to this exercise, we will use a process similar to those ongoing within the academic departments at the moment for the determination of *actual* GCSE and A-Level grades. The departments are making excellent progress with this. So this year's predicted A-Level grades for students presently in Year 12 will be determined by the academic departments, taking into account the objective evidence available, and teachers' professional judgement. As is our usual practice, students will receive their predicted grades in writing in good time for when the UCAS application window opens.

SOME REASSURANCE FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 10 AND 12

Yesterday the Government published the most recent in a sequence of revisions to this document:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/883150/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents_UPDATED_05MAY2020_FINAL.pdf

It includes the following addition, which indicates that there is an awareness of the obvious fact that students in Years 10 and 12 who are part-way through courses leading to public examinations have had their courses significantly disrupted due to the nationwide school closure. In full, the new section is this:

What about Year 10 and 12 students who have had their teaching and learning significantly disrupted this year?

We know the COVID-19 outbreak will have caused stress and uncertainty for many students, regardless of whether or not they were due to take exams this year. Students who are studying GCSE, AS or A level courses, but are not due to take exams until 2021, will also have experienced disruption to their teaching and learning this year. We do not yet know for how long this disruption will continue.

We are working with the DfE, the wider sector and exam boards to consider the options for next year.

FROM MILK TO TEAMS - CHANGEOVER WEEK IS NEXT WEEK

Now that the School has been closed for several weeks and is likely to remain closed for some time ahead we need to change how work is set for our students so that they can hand work in to their teachers. This is not at present possible using the well-established *MILK* system.

Following a short trial period during which some subjects have been using Microsoft *Teams* with their Year 12 students, the decision has been made to move from *MILK* to Microsoft *Teams* for all subjects across all year-groups. Teachers will now be able to offer constructive and informative feedback and can clarify any misconceptions that students may have in the course of their independent learning at home.

THE CHANGEOVER

As with all changes it is certain that there will be a period during which both teachers and students are getting used to using the new system. Most teachers have not used the system before and are being trained by remote means at short notice. Please do not expect everything to run smoothly from the off. One of the advantages of *Teams* is that it will run on any device - a mobile phone, a tablet, a computer - so we do not expect students to encounter technical problems.

There will be a short changeover period during which students' work will be set on both *MILK* and *Teams*.

THE TIMETABLE FOR THE CHANGEOVER

Teachers will set up their laptops to use *Teams* between now and Monday. Students will be sent step-by-step instructions via *MILK* message explaining how to use *Teams*.

Monday 11 May

All work for Years 10 and 12 set on *Teams* and on *MILK*

All work for Years 7, 8 and 9 to be set on *MILK* as normal

Wednesday 13 May

End of transition period for Years 10 and 12

Start of transition period for Years 7, 8 and 9

All work for Years 10 and 12 set exclusively on *Teams*

Work for Years 7, 8 and 9 set on *Teams* and on *MILK*

Friday 15 May

All work for all students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 set exclusively on *Teams*.

The move to *Teams*, at least whilst we find a route through the present period of School closure, will - once we are all used to using it - improve what we are able to do for our students whilst normal lessons cannot take place.

PASTORAL UPDATE - Mr Brunner (Deputy Headteacher: Pastoral)

Students will receive today, via *MILK*, the seventh-issue of our weekly wellbeing newsletter. *BGS Bees* includes a mix of things to do, light-hearted news and mindful activities with contributions from students and staff. I am indebted to Miss Atkinson, the driving force behind this initiative, ably supported by Miss Bradley, Miss Kirby and Ms Currier, not to mention all the other staff and students who have played a part. Whilst students and parents receive *BGS Bees* through the *MILK* app, to help support the wider School community all issues are now available on our website – they can be located, along with other support materials, under 'School Information'.

Heads of Year have previously contacted their respective Year groups during the School closure and students will have received the latest update, via *MILK*, yesterday afternoon. Students are able to reply to this message and are encouraged to do so if they require additional pastoral support, be that an email, a phone call or being signposted to further resources.

Useful wellbeing resources for students and parents during the coronavirus outbreak (also available on the School's website):

Support for students:

- Online support for young people - <https://www.kooth.com>
- Mental health advice for young people - <https://www.youngminds.org.uk>
- Support for children regardless of the issue - <https://www.childline.org.uk> and Helpline 0800 1111
- Support for anyone having a difficult time - <https://www.samaritans.org/>
- Mental Health advice for young people during the COVID-19 pandemic - <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/coping-coronavirus-guide-young-people>
- A selection of self-care strategies that have been developed by young people to help manage their own wellbeing - <https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/>

Support for parents:

- Staying at home mental health tips from the NHS - <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/>
- Emotional health resources for young people and parents in Lincolnshire - <https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/lincolnshire/young-people/coronavirus-informationresource-hub>
- COVID-19 Advice and support for parents from the NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>
- How to keep your child safe online and what to do if you have a concern – <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>
- Video guidance for parents and carers about how they can support themselves and their children during any disruption caused by the coronavirus - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnANLAcPz4&feature=youtu.be>
- Support for bereaved children and families or those apprehensive about or anticipating bereavement - <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/pages/category/coronavirus>
- Lincolnshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) - <https://www.wearecamhsincs.nhs.uk>
- Government advice on supporting young people - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

VE DAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

It is a desperate shame that the nation is unable to recognise and celebrate this milestone in the manner which its immense significance should rightly command. I hope that our students will be able to sense something of the enormity of what was achieved several generations ago from whatever is presented to us *via* the media.

School work will not be set and the School will be entirely closed on Friday 8 May.

BRIDGE DESIGNS BY YEAR 7 STUDENTS

As part of their home studies, Year 7 Design Engineering students have recently researched different types of bridges, and then designed and made their own bridges using materials that they have available to them. Below are a few examples sent to me this week by Mrs Ellis (Subject Leader: Computer Science), who says that it is clear students are very happy with what they have learned and achieved for this topic.

