

Ref: RV/hw

3 July 2020

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your family are well. I'm sure that you have been following the news and the Government announcement regarding our opening in September for all pupils. I have included the link to the full document (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>). It is a lengthy document and we are currently working through it and the many implications it has for us and will update you when our plans are fully in place. We are so excited that we will be welcoming all of our pupils back in. As you can imagine, there are a good many logistical problems that we will have to solve over the coming weeks to balance high quality education, social distancing and minimising contact between our 1265 pupils and 200 staff. Thanks for your continuing support and patience.

Thanks to all of those pupils who completed our pupil survey last week, it is so important for us to hear the views of our pupils in order to continue moving forward and provide the best education possible, particularly in these unusual times.

I was delighted to see the ranges of responses to how our pupils are looking after their well-being; lots of exercise, use of our PSHE well-being activities and spending time with family. It was pleasing to see that the vast majority of our pupils are having great work / life balance with 78% of pupils reporting to be working up to 4 hours a day, a very small minority are working 6+ hours a day, as I have said previously, you know your child best please make sure they stop when they have had enough.

It was pleasing for us to see that 86% of those surveyed still feel well connected and supported by the school, please encourage your child to contact their teacher via SMH if they are struggling with any aspect of the work. It was wonderful from a Teaching and Learning perspective to see so many responses to the question asking what type of activities they enjoy the most, it is great to see the variety of work being set.

We value the feedback on what we can do to improve and one area that we are keen to respond to is the requirement for more video lessons, we have responded to this by providing staff training and we are looking to move towards Microsoft Teams to offer more interaction and live lessons. I really enjoyed seeing the list of staff that your children had nominated as their 'star teacher'. I will make sure the individual teachers are informed about this, they will be really pleased to hear it.

Year 7 Full Written Report

Staff are busy completing full written reports for our Year 7 pupils. We shall send these out to you, by email, during the last week of this term.

Progress Reports Year 8-10

We have taken to decision not to send out our usual Summer progress report this term. Pupils and parents have been doing a terrific job with Home Learning over the past 12 weeks and we have tried our best to celebrate this by tweeting great work and issuing weekly pupil rewards. We agreed with external advice however, that it was not appropriate to expect pupils to complete their usual Summer assessments during Lockdown. Without this evidence it seemed unreliable and unfair to change any of the current grade predictions we have made for pupils. At the moment, our plans are to review grades and send out new Progress Reports next term.

Year 10 Pupils: Phase 2 Lessons

We are all ready to welcome Year 10 pupils back for their Phase 2 face-to-face teaching in English, Maths and Science from Monday 6 July. Full details have been sent out to all pupils and we have put together a video to explain what each day will look like; it is available to view on our website or Twitter page. If you do have any further queries, however, do not hesitate to get in touch. rstevens@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

Year 11 Pupils: Results Day 2020

Results Day this year is on 20th August 2020.

We have written to all Year 11 pupils to explain our plan to email out results this year. It is essential that you read and complete the form attached to this letter so that we are able to get results out to all our pupils on the correct day.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

If you are concerned about your child's mental health, please see the link to a poster provided by Lancashire NHS <http://www.btrcc.lancs.sch.uk/index.php/11-news-text-breaking/733-young-people-s-mental-health-support>) for access to Virtual Drop ins, these are commencing next week. These are open to children, young people, their families or professionals.

Todmorden Bus

For any parents who need further details about this service for the next academic year, we have had assurances from the bus company that they are just tying up the final details, including information about bus passes. We should have all the necessary information for you in our next parental letter.

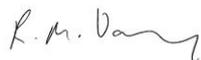
We have also attached a really useful booklet which has been produced by *Lancashire Mind* in relation to looking after your wellbeing with a focus on working from home, furlough and redundancy. This guide explores the effects that changing of work patterns, uncertainty and job loss can have on a person's mental health and wellbeing. We realise that some of our parents might be experiencing unexpected uncertainties in relation to jobs. The booklet explores some of the circumstances people may find themselves in, how it can affect their mental health and wellbeing and things which can be done to keep you well through uncertain times.

To reflect the current COVID situation, we have updated our behaviour policy.

<http://www.btrcc.lancs.sch.uk/index.php/2019-10-02-14-51-58/college-policies/84-behaviour>

I do hope you have a good weekend. I will be in touch again next week with a further update. Thank you for all you are doing in supporting your child with home learning. Two weeks to the holidays!

Yours sincerely



Richard Varey
Headteacher