



# CHELTENHAM BOURNSIDE SCHOOL

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**HEADTEACHER**  
Mr S Jefferies BA Hons MEd

22 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've now completed three weeks of lockdown learning and I continue to be impressed by the dedication, perseverance and enthusiasm with which students are approaching their online lessons. Thank you for your continued support too – although teachers and support staff are online all day working with students and colleagues, it can get lonely staring at a screen and so your encouraging messages are very welcome. It's a joy to share them with staff each week.

We don't want to overwhelm you with information but with the situation changing week by week we'll continue to provide you with regular updates by way of this weekly letter. Much of the information remains useful so we've kept it in this letter. New information has been highlighted in yellow to make it easier for you to find. There's lots of other information being made available to specific year groups and from different subject areas, of course, so we've included a list of where to look for information. We're also constantly amending our website to make information as easy to find as we can. As always, if we can do anything to help, please get in touch.

## Who to contact

- Issues relating to IT: contact [itservices@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:itservices@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk) and 01242 235555;
- Questions and queries relating to general teaching and learning issues: contact your child's tutor; **tutors are providing drop-in help appointments between 2:30-3:00pm each day. Your child can speak directly to their tutor by accessing their tutor group Showbie class.**
- Other queries relating to behaviour, welfare and wellbeing: contact your child's tutor;
- Teaching and learning issues relating to specific school subjects: contact your child's subject teacher
- The central point of contact for general issues that can't be sorted by the tutor or the subject teacher is Mr W Penny ([wjp@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:wjp@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk)) for teaching and learning issues and Mr M Stratford ([ms@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ms@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk)) for any pastoral issues.
- Click [here](#) for staff contact details

## Clarification of where to find resources and information

- All of the resources for your child's learning will be made available on Showbie; these include Zoom codes for the lessons and lesson resources. Showbie is also where students will upload work for the teacher's consideration;
- We very much welcome parents' involvement in their child's learning. If you would like to access resources in order to help your child you will need to use his or her login details.
- Classcharts – information about your child's timetable and behaviour; this has separate levels of access for pupils and parents, each of whom have separate login details.
- Messages sent via Schoolcomms will appear as an email in your inbox (for example, this is how you received this letter).
- Letters sent home can be accessed from [here](#) on our school website.

Empowering lives through learning

## Being prepared for remote learning

Please can we ask parents / carers to ensure that your child / children are fully prepared for their lessons each day. This preparation includes having, ready to use:

- Pens – variety of colours for excellent note taking
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Maths equipment, including calculator
- Ruler
- Highlighters
- Exercise book / sketch book / note taking paper etc.

We would also like to encourage students to have switched on their camera as this improves the online learning experience of the class and makes things easier for the teacher. However, this is not a requirement: just a request! Finally, the students must have their name as their Zoom name as they enter the lesson – if they do not have their name, they won't be allowed access to the lesson. All Zoom links will be found in their class Showbie area – if any student is having an issue with this then please email your class teacher and they will be able to rectify the issue.

We are relaunching the popular 'Enriching Home Learning' site that we created during the initial lockdown last March. This site is accessible on the students' home Frog page. Here they will find a variety of activities to support their mental health and well-being as well as access to fun competitions and other enrichment opportunities to support their home learning. **We will also update this site weekly with an assembly**, student notices and advertise any House events that they can access from home. The assembly next week will focus on Holocaust memorial. We encourage as many students to watch this as possible.

## Upcoming House competition

We have been extremely impressed with the number of House points that have been awarded from home. Our House points competition is very much up and running still, so we encourage student to keep working hard and keep earning their points. To support this our Heads of House will be launching a House competition that students can enter from home.

The first is "Bournside's Got Talent!" More detail will follow next week but students can start thinking about their video entry straightaway.

## Year 9 Options Process

Early next week, we will send out details of the 1:1 interview process that your son/daughter will participate in on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January or Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Their interview will last for 15 minutes maximum, via Zoom, with a member of school staff. This will be a chance for them to ask questions and for us to ensure that their decision making process is progressing well. If there are any questions about this, please contact Miss Hanley, Deputy Headteacher – [kjh@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:kjh@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk) when you get the information next week.

## Assessment and exams

We have not yet received any additional information about how GCSE and A'level grades will be awarded this year. The Secretary of State for Education and Ofqual have committed to opening a consultation on these issues within the next few days and we will, of course, contribute to this.

However, to repeat what I said in last week's letter: because GCSE and A'level results will largely be determined by teacher assessment, failing to engage in remote learning or failing to submit work requested will impact upon the final grade awarded.

## Your feedback

Thank you so much to those of you who took the time to respond to the Parent and Carer Survey on Remote Learning. **93%** of respondents described the way that Bournside has adapted to remote learning as **excellent** or **good** (the remaining saying 'satisfactory'). It was also pleasing to see that our approach to remote learning this time has overwhelmingly been seen as a **success**:

We have changed the way we conduct remote learning from the first lockdown, by seeking to replicate the timetable and by delivering all lessons 'live'. How would you describe this change from previous periods of remote learning?

[More Details](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> An improvement	127
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Neither better nor worse	9
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Less effective	0



The responses have been really useful for us to evaluate our current provision and will help us to drive further improvement. Please be aware that the responses were anonymous so if you have any specific enquiries, please be in touch (as per the Who to Contact section of this letter above).

If you have any questions about the surveys, please speak to Mrs Hemsley, Assistant Headteacher, [lh@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:lh@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk)

Thank you all for your ongoing support of the school and of your child's learning. We've received many warm, encouraging and reassuring messages; it is difficult to overstate the positive impact these have when I share them with my colleagues!

Yours sincerely,

Steve Jefferies  
Headteacher