



CHELTENHAM BOURNSIDE SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER
Mr S Jefferies BA Hons MEd

29 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement this week, we now know that for the vast majority of students, school will continue to be online until the 8th of March. That's a real disappointment to all us: a (nearly) empty school is a strange thing. The quiet corridors seem to long for the presence of students and as I walk through deserted classrooms I'm reminded that a school isn't a building: it's a living, vibrant, lively community of students and staff. On the other hand, fixing a date to return gives us something to work towards: light at the end of the tunnel, a sense that we're getting there and that there is truth – not just platitude - in a phrase that has been used many times in the last year: "this too shall pass".

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 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) for teaching and learning issues and Mr M Stratford (ms@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk) for any pastoral issues.
- A reminder that although your child belongs to a house, we currently have a Head of House supporting each your group. They are an additional point of contact if you need them:
 - Year 7: Miss Kelly
 - Year 8: Mr Hirons & Mr Freeman
 - Year 9: Mr Bashford
 - Year 10: Mr Taylor
 - Year 11: Mr Crawford
 - Sixth Form: Mr Warren
- 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

Empowering lives through learning

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.

Tips for improved Remote Learning

- Please see the graphic below for some excellent tips for how to learn in the best possible way from home. One of the most important tips is making sure you have time for yourselves away from your screens.

Remote Learning Tips For Students

1 Plan your day. Know what lessons and resources you need before you start.

2 Have a daily routine you stick to. Be on time for your lessons.

3 Lock away any distractions. Or put mobile devices on Airplane mode.

4 Create your own workspace or area. Keep it organised and functional.

5 Take notes in your lessons, use mind maps, sketch notes to help remember information.

6 Make time for yourself to have a break. Reward yourself with some down time.

Just as Important Tips to Check Out.

7 Practice mindfulness for 10 minutes a day

8 Chat with Friends and Family when you can during the day

9 Ask for Help if you are stuck on a task or question

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
- 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.

Homework for Year 7, 8 and 9

From Monday 1st February we will not be setting compulsory homework for Year 7, 8 and 9 students whilst we continue to provide remote education. This is to reduce the screen time that these students are having each day. The decision follows feedback from our first parent and student survey and discussions with other local schools who have made the same decision.

We would ask that you support us in asking your child to read for at least 20 minutes each day after their school day has finished to further develop their literacy skills and wider knowledge. If you do not currently have a reading book at home, please contact our librarian on literacy@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk who will be able to support you. Students will also have the opportunity for independent extension work which can be completed outside of their lessons if they wish to complete it for each subject, but this is not compulsory. If completed, this work should be submitted to their teacher for feedback. Extra independent learning opportunities, in a range of subjects, for completion after the school day has finished, can also be accessed via the Enriching Home Learning page on the student FROG portal.

Homework will re-commence when we return to school.

Remote House competition – now live!

We have been extremely impressed with the number of House points that have been awarded from home. Our House competition is very much up and running, despite the lockdown! Our Heads of House have now launched a House competition that students can get involved from home:

"Bournside's Got Talent!"

Students can perform their chosen talent, record it and upload it to their House Showbie group (details below). **Entries close on 22nd February**. After a selection process, House points will be awarded to the winning entries. We will then put together a highlights video that you can watch from home. For more information click [here](#).

Showbie Groups:

- Attenborough House entries: **F83QP**
- Frank House entries: **26HDQ**
- Hawking House entries **A6ECR**
- Owens House entries: **QWLPB**
- Parks House entries: **54CFR**
- Rowling House entries: **CM4M7**

Year 9 Options Process

Many of our Year 9 students had their Options 1:1 meeting today and the remainder happen on Monday. We have been very impressed with our students so far and they have clearly done a lot of research already, and their aspirations are impressively high. Hopefully any remaining questions can be answered at the Year 9 PTC next Thursday. If there are any questions about Options, please contact Miss Hanley, Deputy Headteacher – kjh@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk and a reminder that she and Mr Penny, Deputy Headteacher will be available at Year 9 PTC (no appointment necessary) if you want to ask any supplementary questions.

Assessment and exams

The consultation on Summer 2021 examinations and grading ends today so we are hopeful we will soon know how grades will be awarded this summer. We will be in touch once we have this information. However, to repeat what I have said previously 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.

Reading Books

If your child is looking for more reading material and you have an Amazon account, you can download the free Kindle App on their school iPad. Bournside's Librarian, Mrs Magovern, will update the Student Bulletin on Frog with details of free/low cost eBooks that are available to download on the app. Please note that deals remain for a limited period, so always verify that the deal is still available before downloading.

Careers Advice and Guidance

We are aware that parents may be wondering how they can support their sons and daughters at the moment with careers information, advice and guidance. We are still working with students in years 9 to 13 who need help and support – please e-mail careers@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk if you would like to book an appointment for your son or daughter.

If you just need some help with finding careers information then please look at the school website <https://www.bournside.gloucs.sch.uk/careers/> or if your son/daughter wants to use one of the careers packages we subscribe to then please encourage them to login to either Xello - <https://login.xello.co.uk/> or Unifrog - <https://www.unifrog.org/sign-in>. Also a reminder that the Virtual Careers Fair website is still live - <https://froglearn.cleeveschool.net/app/os#!cleeve-bournside-virtualcareersfair2021/home>

You may have noticed on the school calendar that we have a number of events coming up in the next couple of months. The National Apprenticeship Week is the 8th to 14th February. The theme is “Build the Future” encourage students to consider how apprenticeships can help individuals to develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career – we will be sending some links for this to you – but if you are interested finding out more about apprenticeships please look at the following www.apprenticeships.gov.uk to find out more, and tag @Apprenticeships and #NAW2021.

We would also have had year 11 Mock Interviews with Sixth Form interviews in March. We are offering to help any year 11 student who is considering or applying for an apprenticeship to set up a virtual interview if that would be of help – again please e-mail careers@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk – if you would like this for your son or daughter.

We will however have a 15 minute Virtual interview with all year 11 students to discuss their destinations (this will include your Sixth Form Interview if applying to Bournside Sixth Form) on the 2nd and 3rd March – we will be in touch with you and your son/daughter about this on the 22nd/23rd of February – all links and timings will be sent to you and your son/daughter via School Comms.

Help with printing

Hunters Estate Agents in Hatherley have kindly offered a free printing service to children who need to print homework etc. and who might not have access to a printer or paper at home. Please get in touch with our admin team (admin@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk) if you would like to take up this offer.

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](#)

● An improvement	127
● Neither better nor worse	9
● 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

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