



5 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we turn the page on January, winter is beginning to fade: daffodils are pushing up through the lawns, snowdrops are appearing under the trees and birdsong is heralding the dawn. The world appears to be preparing for a return to the green of Spring. Similarly, there are signs of change for schools. There's been a lot of talk this week about the planned 8th of March date for reopening being brought forward; no firm plans have been announced but with the vaccination programme going well and with testing facilities in place, we can, I think, be confident that like the natural world, we're seeing the green shoots and tiny buds of a return to the world we're used to.

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

Where to find learning 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

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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.

The infographic is titled "Remote Learning Tips For Students" and features a green header with a white icon of a student at a laptop. Below the header is a grid of nine numbered tips, each with an illustration and a brief description. The tips are: 1. Plan your day using a daily planner. 2. Have a daily routine and stick to it. 3. Lock away mobile devices. 4. Create a dedicated workspace. 5. Take notes and use mind maps. 6. Take breaks and reward yourself. 7. Practice mindfulness. 8. Chat with friends and family. 9. Ask for help when stuck.

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 Aeroplane 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 now have 2 house competitions up and running. We hope that many students will want to get involved over the coming week and half term break:

"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**

"House Pancake Day"

Students are invited to enter the competition by designing a 3D pancake scene. All details can be found on the 'Enriching Home Learning' site on the student's home page of Frog.

Mental Health and wellbeing support

To help support your son or daughter we have developed an interactive resource on their student frog pages. It can be found on the Enriching Home Learning (2021) link on their Frog home page. They can then select the Mental Health and Wellbeing site for a wealth of resources, links and strategies to help support them. There are also resources and links specifically for parents too.

They can also contact the Pastoral team directly to seek support. The link is under the heading **Getting support from school**. Please encourage them to understand that 'It's ok to say I'm not ok'

Student leaders – Mindfulness

Starting next week some of our Senior House captains, supported by members of staff, will be hosting some tutor time mindfulness activities via Zoom. These optional drop-ins will run between 2:30pm and 3pm for those students who wish to attend.

- Year 7 – Monday
- Year 8 – Tuesday
- Year 9 – Wednesday
- Year 10 – Thursday
- Year 11 - Friday

For further details, please contact your tutor or access the links via the tutor Showbie class.

National Apprenticeship Week: 8th - 12th February

It is National apprenticeship week next week which gives our students a timely reminder to focus their thoughts on their future aspirations and ambitions. To support this event, we have built a website where students can access resources and explore the idea of apprenticeship and employment. There is even a chance to earn house points! The National apprenticeship week resources can be found on the 'Enriching home learning' tab on the student home page of Frog.

Year 9 Options Process

Now that all students have had their 1:1 appointment, and PTC has happened, students should be at the stage of finalising their options choices. Next week, you will receive an email from Miss Hanley outlining the process for completing the on-line choices form which goes live on Friday 12th February and is due to be submitted by Monday 22nd February.

Assessment and exams

The consultation on Summer 2021 examinations and grading has ended and so we are hopeful we will soon know how grades will be awarded this summer. The date we have been given is that we will have information by Monday February 22nd. 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

Two local estate agents, Hunters and Peter Ball & Co, 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 first Parent and Carer Survey on Remote Learning.

We would like to invite you to complete [this](#) second, short survey on remote learning in order that we can see how things have continued to go, as we near the end of this term. This will help us in improving the quality of our remote provision. Please submit your responses by Tuesday 9th February.

The results from the last survey are as follows: **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 get 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