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BEDE ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER



8 JANUARY 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the first newsletter of 2021, though I am sure for many of us it feels like it should be 2022 already! This year is only days old and the range of challenges for all of our families as well as those seen on the news has been considerable.

Can I start by saying a simple but heartfelt 'thank you' for all the kind words of support that many have sent in to keep encouraging us all as we do what we can to support this community.

We learnt lessons from the last period of limited school opening over the summer about online learning. We continue to learn and adjust now as we try to offer the best quality provision that we can, to support you and your children at home. We are particularly focused on trying to find the right balance between online interactive lessons using Google Classrooms with students and teachers

commenting about work in the chat streams, 'live' streamed lessons using Google Meets, pre-recorded work or a range of set activities. We know that each of these approaches have their own strengths, but we also know that they present differing challenges to you as parents and carers at home.

May I please remind all students that we expect each of them (from Years 7 to 13) to log on to their tutor room and say 'good morning' to their Form Tutor at the start of each day. We are taking registers and will be using them to track student engagement with their online work. This will help us spot where a student might be struggling to engage and we can offer support.

Though we are working remotely from each other, the Bede Community is still active! You can see the outcomes of our online House Competitions that have been underway again. The next competition is the House Master Chef Competition – please use

this as an opportunity to encourage your son or daughter to cook you a well earned 'gourmet' meal!

Over the page we also provide information about our Covid Testing Centre that is now up and running at Bede Academy as well as the reflections from Daniel who was the first student at Bede to take a test. The schedule for next weeks tests has been included for staff and students who are onsite.

In summary, it has been a busy week for all of us whether at home or onsite. I hope and pray that you remain safe, that we are able to find strength to support each other and keep up our sense of hope over the coming weeks. I will end with some words from St Paul. **'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.'** Romans 15:13.

MR THELWELL

ONLINE LEARNING AND "LIVE" LESSONS

Our introduction video for online was shared with parents and carers last week. If you have not seen this yet the link is: [Online Learning Introduction Video](#)

We have endeavoured to pull together a wide range of advice to help parents and students manage learning from home. This can be found on our website [HERE](#)

The two most frequent trouble shooting issues that have arisen over these first two days are for students accessing the 'live' stream of lessons have been:

- The need for parental consent before we can process and activate students access to 'Google Meets' within their Google Classroom. This takes approximately 24hrs from the time we receive the consent to complete. The form is available [HERE](#) and one needs to be completed for each student.
- Student devices not allowing 'Google Meets' to access the camera or the microphone. This can be resolved by adjusting the devices settings. Our guide to how to do this on a range of devices is found [HERE](#).



- Students saying that their 'classrooms have disappeared'. This is most often because they have not logged into Google Classrooms using their own private email addresses rather than their Bede Learning email address. Simply log out of all your google accounts and log in again using only the Bede Learning account the academy provides.

Free School Meal Vouchers

We will continue to issue Free School Meal Vouchers to any family in receipt of this benefit and are working to get these to you as soon as we can.

If any family has undergone a change in circumstance and now would possibly be entitled to Free School Meal provision, we would encourage you to apply for this. You can do so using the following link:

Summer Exams

In addition to this we have already contacted parents of students in Year 11 or in Sixth Form with an update on the implications of Mondays' announcement by the Prime Minister on exams. We will keep parents and students in these year groups informed as information arises and implications become clear as to what form of assessment will replace these. Suffice to say that the early headlines that 'exams have been cancelled' does not provide the full picture. Instead we know that they will not go ahead in their current form but consultation on what assessments might take their place is now underway. We will do all we can to keep preparing our Year 11 and Year 13 students to complete their curriculum and prepare for these assessments.

On Thursday 7th January, our on-site Rapid Covid Testing Centre opened at Bede North for staff working on site. The first day of testing began on Friday. The plan is for weekly testing to take place currently for all staff and students on site, along with daily testing for any identified close contacts of a positive covid case. Once the academy re-opens for all staff and students, on-site testing will be provided for returning students, and contact testing will continue to enable students to remain in the academy, rather than having to isolate for 10 days (providing their test results are negative).

The first student through the test centre was Daniel in 9 Clarkson. Daniel states that when he arrived at the academy on the day of his first test: "I was a bit nervous as I didn't know what to expect." However, he was taken through the process by staff, and once he had reported to the Registration Desk, he went to a swabbing booth, with a Test Assistant, to provide his sample. He states: "It was fine; a little bit uncomfortable with putting the swab in my mouth, but not as bad as I thought it would be. I am glad to have had the test and to be reassured that I don't have coronavirus and am safe in school."



In total, 55 staff and 17 students have had their first weekly test. Whilst the tests are not compulsory, we strongly encourage all site users to sign up for a weekly test in order to keep the Bede community safe, and to provide reassurance for individuals. Consent for under 16s needs to be provided by parents, using [this link](#), and over 16s can provide their own consent using [this link](#), or by signing a paper consent form on the day of their test. A registration card is provided, so that participants can track their own results, should they wish. Any positive test results will be followed up by academy staff, and parents informed.

Summary of results

Christmas House Competitions:

Christmas Cracker

Aidan (1st), Cuthbert (2nd), Oswald (3rd)

Christmas Door

Aidan (1st), Oswald (2nd), Cuthbert (3rd)

House Gingerbread

Cuthbert (1st), Aidan (2nd), Oswald (3rd)



Proposed Programme from Monday 11 January onwards

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
On-site staff 8-8.30am	Staff will report for testing once per week, to correspond with staffing rota. 8-8.30am				
On-site staff 3-4pm	x	x	x	Staff who can't attend morning testing	x
On-site students 8.30-9am	Group A (y7)	Group B (y7)	Group C (y8)	Group D (y9-10)	Group E (y11-13)

Students should simply report to the test centre registration desk at the entrance to stair well 5 by the Sports Hall at 8:30am on their designated day. Students who are not on site on their designated day will be able to take their weekly test at another time in the week. We will arrange this on a case by case basis. We have created and shared with students who are onsite the following short video explaining how the process will work here at Bede Academy





Onsite provision for Critical Workers/Vulnerable Student provision

The academy will continue to provide a Critical Worker/Vulnerable Student provision for the period of the lockdown. More information about students who qualify for this provision can be found at [HERE](#).

If you would like to make use of our daily provision, please complete a short survey [HERE](#). This survey is for the week beginning 11th January - however if you do not need to use the provision during this week but feel you may need to use it at a later date, we would be grateful if you could complete the survey now and indicate this at the appropriate point in the survey.

Hot and cold school meals will continue to be provided each day at school for all who attend this provision. For those in receipt of Free School Meals this will of course be free of charge for non-free school meal students we ask that parents/carers continue to pay for school meals in the usual way via 'Parent Pay'.

Master Chef House Competition



From 11 January until 22 January

To enter - cook a main course meal at home:

- Your meal can involve any ingredients and can be any type of food that you want.
- The meals will be judged on PRESENTATION so try to make them look as appetising as possible!
- Upload a photo of you with your meal onto the BEDE MASTERCHEF assignment on your google classroom.

DISHES WILL BE JUDGED ON 25 JANUARY.

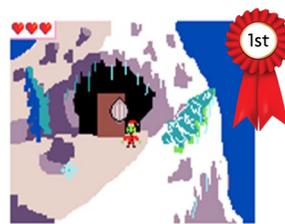
Computer Science Week - challenge results



Ben
9 Clarkson



George
8 MacKinlay



Elliott
9 Shackleton

All students in KS3 participated in the Computer Science Week Challenge, which required them to adapt an existing computer game and to edit the graphics.