



Church of England School
Executive Head and CEO: Mr A J Wilcock MA (Cantab)

11th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Education at Bishop Ramsey after February half term

I would like to begin this letter by congratulating all those involved in live lessons during the past half term on the excellent work they have done. Teachers have shown skill and ingenuity in delivering online lessons and students have worked hard to complete all that has been asked of them. In addition, those working in school to support the learning and pastoral care of our students have been tireless in their approach to this important task.

We will be continuing with the same arrangements after the half term break, with the majority of students following live online lessons at home, while children of key workers and vulnerable children receive the same lessons in school. I will contact you again once it is clear what form the future re-opening of schools will take and what arrangements will go along with this.

There are a few important points in relation to your child's schooling that I would like to make you aware of:

1. We will not be setting any homework to be completed during half term. Furthermore, any work that is still outstanding from before half term will not be chased by teachers after the break. We are aware that many diligent students have developed a backlog of work and we think it is important that all students have a proper break from study and can enjoy relaxing over the half term holiday.
2. After half term, we will not expect students to submit work every time a class task is set. Any tasks that do need to be submitted will be clearly indicated on SMHW as 'submit via SMHW' and explained in the online lesson. This is designed to support the work-life balance of both teachers and students.
3. Lessons will continue to take the form of an introduction by the teacher of up to 25-30 minutes (it may be less). After that, tasks will be set for the remainder of the lesson, giving students a break of between 5 and 10 minutes at the end of the lesson. If students are unable to complete all the tasks set in that time, they do not need to return to them later. We just want students to do what they can in the time remaining in the lesson and then move on to the next lesson (or break or lunch).



4. You may already be aware of Mrs Aitken's initiative "BReady to Learn", which takes place from 8.15 to 8.30 am every school weekday morning on You Tube Your son or daughter (and you) are welcome to take part in this. It can be accessed via Show My Homework (SMHW) or on Twitter, BR_PhysicalEd
5. With wellbeing in mind, we are denoting the whole of Wednesday 24th February, the Wednesday after half term, as "Wellbeing Wednesday". There will be no lessons on that day. Each student will have a 5 minute catch-up appointment during the morning via school cloud. After that they are free to spend the day as they choose. There will be a variety of activities posted on the school website that we would encourage them to try out. However, the main aim is for them to relax, preferably without spending the whole day looking at a screen. Miss Maycock is sending details about "Wellbeing Wednesday" in a separate letter in this week's Maildrop.
6. We have had some concerns about internet security. With this in mind, please ensure your son or daughter does not give out their password to anyone else. It is their responsibility to ensure their account is as secure as it can be.

The very best behaviour is expected online, as in school. Any offensive or abusive messaging or disruptive behaviour will be dealt with under the school's Behaviour Policy. Students are urged to report anything that contravenes the high standards we expect.

7. With adults and children working at home, we realise there has been a great deal of pressure on internet services. A number of mobile phone companies are offering a top up of free mobile data for families who are now, or have been, in receipt of free school meals and who do not have broadband.

In addition to this, the school can purchase dongles to loan to students if their internet access is patchy or unreliable. Please contact Miss Wells via cwells@bishopramsey.school if you need assistance.

And finally, I do hope you all have a good break after what has been an arduous half term for us all; students, parents and members of staff.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Wilcock
CEO, Veritas Educational Trust
Executive Headteacher, Bishop Ramsey School