



THE BUSHEY  
ACADEMY

Proud to belong

1 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your family had a good half term. We now have seven weeks before the summer holiday and this will be a very busy time.

### 1. Distance Learning

We continue to use Google Classroom as the primary place for your child to access their work over the next seven weeks. This may be a good time to re-read our guide <http://www.thebusheyacademy.org/distance-learning/>. Many parents have found [BBC Bitesize](#) (much expanded for school closure) and [Oak National Academy](#) useful in supplementing the work that our teachers are setting. Well done to all the students who are working very hard and making sure that they complete their work to an excellent standard and on time.

### 2. Key Worker/Vulnerable School

We were open to these groups of children through the half term holiday. A massive thank you to all staff who make this happen.

### 3. School re-opening for Year 10 and 12

We will be contacting the parents and carers of Year 10 and 12 soon with further details about this.

### 4. Another reminder about our Personal Development Programme

A reminder that all students have two separate education sessions each week called **'Our World: People, Politics and Key Events'** and **'Our World: Art and Culture.'** Both sessions last for around 30 minutes, and are normally delivered by form tutors. This education is designed to broaden students' understanding of the world that they live in (their 'cultural capital') and are a key strand of providing an ambitious and fully rounded education. These education sessions are now being emailed directly to students, as well as parents, each Friday morning. We would really encourage parents and carers to work together with their children on both of these 'Our World' education sessions, as they are designed to be an enjoyable learning experience, which an adult can supplement with their own knowledge and personal experience.

Additionally, each week, all students in Years 7-11 at the academy have a 30 minute education session as part of their Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) programme. The PSHCE programme for this first half term will continue via online learning and will be emailed out to students by their Year Team on a Thursday.

The programme for this half term is as follows:

- Year 7: Social media and wider e-safety
- Year 8: Current global issues: crime, dictatorships and human rights abuses
- Year 9: Politics at local, national and international levels
- Year 10: Our planet: key environmental issues
- Year 11: Preparation for the next stages of education and work

## **5. A further reminder about mental health support for students**

These tough times can be a strain on the mental health of our children, and we are determined to do what we can to help in this area. This is why we have our Google Classroom available to all students, called **Mindfulness and Well-Being**. This is populated with useful tips and guidance for students. Please encourage your child to log into this online classroom regularly each week.

Every week, as part of the cultural education programme outlined above, there is always a focus included on positive mental health.

The academy has access to 3 professional counsellors, who are working to support students where necessary via an online platform. The academy will look to prioritise students with the most serious needs, but any student who feels in need of this support should email their request to: [childprotection@thebusheyacademy.org](mailto:childprotection@thebusheyacademy.org). Parents can also email, but the service is only for young people.

Please be aware that Hertfordshire Local Authority has put in place additional free counselling support for young people via an organisation called Signpost, which has offices in Watford and Hemel Hempstead. Signpost offers professional counselling and is flexible in terms of how this is delivered and the timings. Students can self-refer by completing a short application form.

Signpost also offers 4 free sessions to parents in need of any particular guidance or support. Please visit their website [signpostcounselling.co.uk](http://signpostcounselling.co.uk) for more information, or call them on 01923 239495.

## **6. Form Tutor/Year Team contacting your child**

This has proved to be very popular with parents/carers, and we will be continuing this. We will be discussing the work-rate and academic progress of your son/daughter, as well as checking on well-being and offering support if needed.

## **7. A reminder about the StarLine Helpline**

[StarLine](http://www.starline.org.uk/) is a new national home learning helpline offering expert information and advice to parents and carers, both subject-specific support and advice on behaviour, SEND and wellbeing:  
<https://www.starline.org.uk/>

You can telephone StarLine on: **0330 313 9162** and the opening hours are:

Mondays and Wednesdays:	8.00am - 4.00pm and 7.00pm - 10.00pm
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays:	10.00am - 4.00pm
Sundays:	10.00am - 1.00pm

There are also useful [StarBlogs](#) and weekly [StarLive](#) videos with advice and guidance, live at 8.30am every Wednesday morning.

Join [@StarLineSupport](#) live at 8.30am on Wednesdays for the latest episode of [#StarLive](#) – a new weekly YouTube series packed with home learning tips and support. <https://youtu.be/ny5wFbtYPJs>

### **8. New uniform for September: have you ordered your free bundle?**

Today is your deadline for ordering your free uniform bundle if your child will be in year 8 – 11 in September 2020. Please remember that if ordering a skirt, it must be knee length. In case you need them, here are the links:

[Free Uniform Bundle Boys](#)

[Free Uniform Bundle Girls](#)

As always, may I thank you for your support during these difficult times. Your primary contact point with us remains [admin@thebusheyacademy.org](mailto:admin@thebusheyacademy.org). I wish you a good week and I will write again to you on Monday 8 June.

**Jon Hebblethwaite, Principal**