



**THE BUSHEY
ACADEMY**

Proud to belong

8 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your family had a good week and that your son/daughter is back into a good daily routine of learning. We now have six weeks to go until the summer break.

1. Distance Learning

This is our main way of learning for all our students and it is important that your son/daughter is fully engaged, however overseeing home learning is not necessarily easy for parents (as a parent of a 13 and 11 year old I appreciate this). For tips on distance learning, please see our guide <http://www.thebusheyacademy.org/distance-learning/>. We continue to use Google Classroom as the primary place for your child to access their work over the next six weeks. 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. Congratulations to all the students who are giving their best in terms of work rate in their distance learning.

2. Key Worker/Vulnerable School

We had another excellent week in the Key Worker/Vulnerable School. Thank you to the staff who continue to make this happen,

3. Wider 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.

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. 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 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 the 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:

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

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>

Thank you for your ongoing support, it means a lot to us. Your primary contact point remains admin@thebusheyacademy.org. Have a good week and I will write again to you on Monday 15 June.

Jon Hebblethwaite, Principal