



**THE BUSHEY
ACADEMY**

Proud to belong

29 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Another week has flown by we now only have three weeks until the end of term.

1. Distance Learning

We have continued to get more positive feedback from parents/carers regarding the improvements made in our 'live' and 'on demand' resources, and we will continue to improve in this area over the next few weeks. Please remember that if you need any help or advice with distance learning, please can you have a look at our guide <http://www.thebusheyacademy.org/distance-learning/>.

2. Key Worker/Vulnerable School

This 'school' continues to thrive with expanded numbers.

3. Wider opening for Year 10 and 12

Our second week of this was very successful, with 74% of the students eligible to come in attending (the same figure as the week before).

4. Our Personal Development Programme

PSHCE

Each week all students in Years 7-10 have a 30 minute education session as part of their Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) programme. The PSHCE programme for this last 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 summer 2 term is as follows:

- Year 7: Initial information and guidance on careers
- Year 8: Celebrating social and cultural diversity (including LGBT+)
- Year 9: Key ethical, spiritual and moral dilemmas (Part One)
- Year 10: Key ethical, spiritual and moral dilemmas (Part Two)

Cultural Education

Sitting alongside the above PSHCE programme are our weekly online education sessions which are called:

- Our World: People, Politics and Key Events
- Our World: Art and Culture

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. The feedback from parents and carers across the school has been highly positive, and there have been lovely stories of families looking at this and learning together. We would really encourage this, as our young people can learn a lot from you adding your own adult perspective and life experience to help bring these educational slides to life.

Both power points will now be emailed out to students and parents each Wednesday morning.

General information on mental health

We fully recognise that our young people will have found lockdown a challenging experience in many different ways, including in terms of maintaining positive mental health.

Our key advice in relation to emotional well-being is to build in regular conversations with your child about how they are feeling – we are very open at school in talking about mental health, and these conversations can help young people to feel it is okay to speak about difficult emotions, without fear of stigma.

Also, having clear parental expectations around establishing routines continues to be essential, particularly ensuring that your child is out of bed at a reasonable time each morning, is getting properly dressed, and commits themselves to sufficient school work both in the morning and afternoon. As they will currently be spending more time on a computer than they would normally do in a typical school day, time away from the screen is important, as is getting outside each day for some fresh air and exercise.

There is also a 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.

Specific concerns around mental health

In a large school there will always be individual students that need, at times, some additional support. Our current provision includes the following:

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, highlighting a need for their child.

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.

Our fortnightly 1:1 contact

As part of our commitment to supporting your child, all form tutors in Years 7-13 inclusive will continue to make contact once a fortnight with each of the students in their respective forms. Form tutors have been given the flexibility to make contact either by email, by telephone, or via our online video platform Google Meet. We are committed to continuing with this, so we can help each young person feel cared for and supported.

To help us, please make sure that your child is checking their school emails each day for information and that they are fully and proactively engaged in this communication with their form tutor.

I will write to you again on Monday 6 July. Your primary point of contact with us remains admin@thebusheyacademy.org. I hope you and your family have a good week.

Jon Hebblethwaite, Principal