

FAQ'S FOR PARENTS – REMOTE SCHOOLING (SENIOR SCHOOL)

Dear Parent/Guardian

Firstly, I would like to wish you well and hope you had a restful Easter.

I wrote to you at the end of last term highlighting how proud I am of the teachers and students alike who have transitioned to teaching remotely. Although not without issue, the Battle Abbey School team have worked tirelessly to further improve the provision and I would once more like to thank them for this.

In preparation for the term ahead, I have compiled a series of 'FAQ's' to hopefully help you navigate the current schooling landscape. Please note that the situation is evolving and that some of the information below will need to be updated. Also, if there is something you feel is omitted from the list below, please let me know and I will update and issue a subsequent version if needed.

Thank you so much for your continued support. It is even more clear now how important working together and supporting each other is. I very much look forward to seeing you all very soon,

Philip Usher (Deputy Head)

CONTACT INFORMATION

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I NEED TO?

This is exactly the same as before. Usually the first contact is the tutor or teacher. If it is a financial matter contact the Bursar. Anything related to health & welfare contact the Welfare Team and safeguarding contact Mrs Buckland. The Heads of Key Stage, Deputy Head, Director of Studies and Head are still available for more serious matters.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I HAVE A TECHNICAL ISSUE OR CANNOT ACCESS MICROSOFT TEAMS?

If you have any technical issues, please contact our support team by emailing: baldryd@battleabbey.school

PASTORAL, WELFARE & SAFEGUARDING

WHAT IF I AM WORRIED ABOUT MY CHILDS HEALTH OR WELFARE?

All health and welfare concerns should continue to be sent to medical@battleabbeysschool.com. The team will endeavour to offer advice to families whilst we are away. Please also refer to the resources in the 'Working from home' and 'Health and Welfare' folders on Firefly.

WHAT ABOUT SAFEGUARDING?

This continues to operate, please contact Mrs Buckland for any support.

WHAT ABOUT THE FORM TUTOR /SIXTH FORM MENTOR?

The form tutor & mentor continue to be the focal point for the pastoral side of the school. It is important that the tutor and tutee makes contact once per week (or mentor and mentee). This may be done by email or Microsoft Teams. Please note, this is not a limit of once per week – please contact if needed.

WHAT ABOUT THE PASTORAL PROGRAMME?

There will be regular assemblies including Whole School, Key Stage and House, which will be posted to BAS TV and our other social media accounts. Many of the main PSHE topics and themes relevant at this time including online safety, mental health, wellbeing, personal health and hygiene available as resources in the 'Working from Home' folder. The 6th form PSHE programme will continue to operate virtually. Contact will also continue to be made weekly by form tutors.

WHAT ABOUT BOARDERS?

Boarders continue to be an important part of the Battle Abbey School family. They will continue to be in contact with Mr Perry, the relevant teachers and pastoral staff. If there are any difficulties due to time zones or accessing the technology, please contact either Mr Perry or tutors. We very much look forward to welcoming boarders back and will liaise with you as UK government guidance changes.

WHAT ABOUT HEADS OF HOUSE, BRONZES AND GUARDIANS?

Heads of House, Bronzes and Guardians will remain in post as usual. The process to decide the new incumbents will start in May and be concluded in June. Guidance on the application process will be published in due course.

EXTRA CURRICULUM AND SCHOOL EVENTS

WHAT ABOUT EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?

On Firefly, there is a 'Working from Home' section with over 100 activities & suggestions for your child to follow - hopefully you found this useful over the Easter break. There have already been several 'clubs' running. The PE Department have continued to run the Scholars group, Mr Mercer has set several challenges and Miss Holt has updated the relevant page on Firefly. There have also been challenges and activities run by the Maths Department, Performing Arts, Philosophy, Computing and others beyond. This aspect of the school will now strengthen further and more information will come out for the term ahead shortly.

WHAT ABOUT FUTURE SCHOOL EVENTS?

Clearly, this will depend upon government regulation and advice. We are continually reviewing the school calendar and will run as much as practical and safe to do so. Parents and students will be informed about the changes to the calendar.

WHAT ABOUT CANCELLED SCHOOL TRIPS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS?

This will be dealt with on a case by case basis. Duke of Edinburgh expeditions will be rescheduled, whereas others may not run for a variety of reasons.

WHAT ABOUT ASSEMBLIES?

The assembly programme will continue to run. This will consist of 'Whole School Assemblies' on Mondays, House or Key Stage Assemblies on Wednesdays and Sixth Form enrichment once per week.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

WILL WORK BE SET BY TEACHERS?

Yes, work will be set. This will either come via Firefly, email or set during an online lesson. Instructions will be given on when and how completed work will be returned by students. It is important that students meet the deadlines set.

WILL WORK BE MARKED BY TEACHERS?

Yes, the usual BAS marking policy will be in operation. Feedback may be verbal, or as a separate commentary dependent on the work set.

WILL LESSONS TAKE PLACE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE TIMETABLE?

Where possible the timetable will be followed. However, like the rest of the nation teachers may be caring for children or other members of their families so may provide work and follow up at different times.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT MY CHILDREN TO DO DURING AN ONLINE LESSON?

Each online lesson may look slightly different (more below). The actual nature of the lesson may depend upon many things such as the age of the child, size of class, subject matter being studied and so forth. However, it is expected that your child completes the work set to the best of their ability, interacts with the teacher as instructed and does not disturb other students.

HOW DOES MY CHILD CREATE AN EFFECTIVE WORKING ENVIRONMENT?

The key here is to minimise distractions – the mobile phone being a key one! Also, a nice clear space with good light. Take regular breaks and follow a timetable. More guidance for Key Stage 3 will be issued by Mr Austen-White.

WHAT IS 'GOOD BEHAVIOUR' IN AN ONLINE LESSON?

Like any lesson, good behaviour is being respectful, polite and hard working. Any students repeatedly distracting the teacher or other students in the lesson will be asked to 'leave' the class and parents will be informed. This is the same for any other disrespectful behaviour.

WHAT DOES A MICROSOFT TEAMS LESSON LOOK LIKE?

This will vary according to the nature of the lesson. Students should turn their camera off. There may be many students 'present' in the lesson so they should only speak when addressed, unless they have a

pertinent question. There is the option to type a question/response and teachers are increasingly using this function. Some lessons may be 'chunked' so that smaller groups of students are dealt with whilst others are carrying on with the task.

WILL EVERY LESSON BE ON MICROSOFT TEAMS?

No, sometimes work will be set via other formats such as a pre-recorded video or task sheet with email follow up. Every lesson with direct interaction between students and teachers will be by Microsoft Teams.

WHY MICROSOFT TEAMS?

There are several alternative systems, however having thoroughly investigated the best platform Microsoft Teams is robust, passes stringent safeguarding standards and works seamlessly with the current school system. This will be continually assessed.

WILL MY CHILD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE LEARNING SUPPORT?

SEN lessons are continuing via Teams but may be subject to a revised timetable.

WILL MY CHILD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE LESSONS?

EAL lessons are continuing via Teams but may be subject to a revised timetable.

WILL THERE BE SUMMER EXAMS, REPORTS AND PARENTS' CONSULTATIONS FOR CHILDREN IN OTHER YEARS?

Yes, we are running the school as normally as conditions permit.

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS IN EXAMINATION YEARS

WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO MY CHILD'S GCSEs or 'A' LEVELS?

The government has stated that there will be no public examinations this summer. Mr Austen-White has issued guidance on this. In summary, exam boards are going to issue grades based upon your child's performance in school. There will be an appeals process, which has yet to be issued and an opportunity to re-sit the exam if desired in the Autumn term (again we are awaiting final details from the government/exam boards).

WHAT ABOUT OTHER QUALIFICATIONS SUCH AS BTECS?

The government have had to take longer with these qualifications because there are many qualifications beyond GCSEs and 'A' Levels. As I write this, we are awaiting final instructions, but there will be no examinations. Therefore, assessments will be based on work completed in school. I would strongly recommend completing all work set to the best standard possible.

WHAT IS MY CHILD IN YEAR 11 GOING TO DO FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR?

The priority task is for class teachers to continue to gather sufficient evidence to support grade submissions to the exam board. There will then be a pre-Sixth programme which will allow an early start to A Levels (or equivalent), extended projects and wider study. This will prove very advantageous to your child because they will have a head start on their studies next year. More details about this will follow.

WHAT IS MY CHILD IN YEAR 13 GOING TO DO FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR?

The priority task is for class teachers to continue to gather sufficient evidence to support grade submissions to the exam board. There will then be 'Life-Skills' & pre-university courses to prepare them for life beyond the Abbey. This will be an important opportunity to develop skills and broaden their curriculum. More details about this will follow.