



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Dayspring Trust



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DAI/TCG

16 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of the summer term, I thought that it would be sensible to update you on our current situation in school. Whilst the majority of pupils are currently not in school, we have seen the return of our Y10 pupils to face to face teaching. This has gone remarkably well, with all pupils showing the maturity needed in the current circumstances. Pupils have commented on how they have really enjoyed being back in school (and we have enjoyed having them back too!).

We are pleased with all year groups and how they have approached "home learning". There have been many challenges with this, and we have appreciated your openness and support as we have worked to iron these out. It is not our intention to set any further work over the summer break. We would encourage pupils to try and complete any "key task" work which they have not done. You can find a copy of the key task list for each year group on the resources page of the school website [[LINK](#)], or by clicking the appropriate link:

[YEAR 7 KEY TASK LIST](#)

[YEAR 8 KEY TASK LIST](#)

[YEAR 9 KEY TASK LIST](#)

[YEAR 10 KEY TASK LIST](#)

[KEY TASK GENERAL INFORMATION](#)

It must be pointed out that teaching staff will not necessarily be available to respond to queries over the summer break as they are not at work during this period of time.

We will be sending out to you and your child links to two questionnaires. These are designed to give us an idea of what has gone well during lockdown, as well as what we need to improve. This is particularly important as no one knows whether there will be further periods of forced closure over the coming months. We would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to fill these in.

I would like to say farewell to our current Y11 pupils - the Class of 2020. To say that the end of their time in school has not gone as we would have expected would be an understatement. They have missed a significant number of celebrations which would have marked their time with us. I know that I speak for us all in sending them every good wish for their GCSE results and for their continued success.



As one year group leaves, another joins. Our new Y7 pupils have unfortunately missed out on our usual two induction days in July due to the coronavirus lock down. We are aiming to begin this process and invite them into school during week 5 of the summer break so that they can orientate themselves in readiness for September. For Y7, the new academic year will begin on Wednesday 2 September. All other year groups will join us on Thursday 3 September. We will have a staggered start during the morning, and I will notify you of the specific start times for each year group in due course. We are really looking forward to welcoming all of our pupils back to school.

You will hopefully have read and heard in the news that from September all pupils in all year groups will be returning to school full time. Schools have now been advised that we can safely allow all pupils to return as long as we implement particular systems and strategies to minimise risk and keep our pupils and staff safe. You can read the full guidance here; [Guidance for full opening: schools - GOV.UK](#). We have been planning for the return of our pupils to school since this guidance was made available to us. There is going to be further guidance released to schools in early August regarding the full return to education. We will be sharing our strategy with you on the changes which we will need to implement to accept all pupils back to school after this additional guidance is published. This is likely to be in week 5 of the holidays. There will no doubt be changes to many aspects of life in school, and we must all play our part. I know that we can all rely on each other to embrace these challenges to ensure that school remains a safe place for everyone.

I would like to remind everyone that school will be closed for the duration of the summer break to enable us to get ready for September's return. We have maintained a small core of office staff working during weeks 1,5 and 6 to try and help with any queries which you might have. The school office will be closed entirely during weeks 2, 3, and 4. It would make sense to use the general contact us page on the school website rather than trying to reach individual members of staff. A link to this page can be found here [Contact Us](#). Whilst your query will be dealt with as soon as practicable, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to deal with all enquiries during the holiday period as the appropriate members of staff may not be available. Equally, the enquiries page will not be monitored during weeks 2, 3, and 4.

As we move into the summer vacation, we would like to remind all of our pupils of the need to stay safe. Please ensure that you are road safe and water safe. Please have a look at these two short videos:

[Road Safety Resources](#),

[Water safety for children and young people](#)

Needless to say, please encourage your child to ensure that they follow the current guidance on how to stay safe during the Corona Virus pandemic. I would like to encourage you to read the following support guidelines and share with your child.

[Coronavirus Resources - Coronavirus Resource centre](#)

Finally, we would like to wish you all a restful summer.

Yours faithfully



Headteacher

