

13th January 2021  
15:30

Dear Families,

**Re: COVID-19 Lockdown Update – Laptops, Mass Testing, Year 11 and Lockdown Clubs**

It has been a few days since I wrote to you so I thought it would be a good time to do so and keep you updated with what is happening at BBS.

Firstly, we would like to apologise if there was any disruption to your child's learning yesterday – there was an external network issue that affected programs such as Teams. I think having network issues from time to time is something that we are all getting used to with remote learning and working from home although it can still be very frustrating! Please be assured that as soon as we are aware of a problem, our IT teams work hard with the Telford and Wrekin IT teams to resolve the issue. We will always try and get the communication out to families as soon as possible so that you are aware too.

Please remind your child that even though Teams may not work from time to time, it does not mean there is no work to do. As mentioned in previous communication, websites such as Bedrock Learning, Hegarty Maths, BBC Bitesize or reading a book are all excellent things to be engaged with while you wait for the network to run again! There are also many more useful website links on the school website under the 'curriculum' tab that will aid learning.

**Laptops: Laptops from the DfE for our FSM families and Laptop Scheme**

We were delighted to receive the 46 laptops we were due to receive from the Department for Education in the Autumn term on Friday. We look forward to families with the highest level of need receiving them soon.

Since before Christmas, we have been looking at the logistics of running a laptop scheme at BBS, where families can pay for the laptop over a number of months. We sent out a survey earlier this week to see if families would be interested and we have already had over 400 responses! Thank you very much! If you would still like to complete the survey but have not done so yet, the link is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GLHPXCW>

We will inform families of the outcome and next steps soon.

**Mass Testing at School**

In my letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021, I informed families of some of the questions I had about mass testing in schools and the accuracy of the lateral flow tests. It is interesting to note that the DfE removed the template information letter that they had sent to schools to use with parents/carers last week. The letter was described as 'highly misleading' by the Professor of Digital Computation at Imperial College London, as it implied that the test is 99.68% accurate when it is not (it is 99.68% accurate in picking up negative tests, not positive ones).

I am delighted to say however, that I have a meeting scheduled with the Department for Education tomorrow morning where I am hoping the questions I have, and I know many families will also have, will be answered. I will update you as soon as I can once the meeting has taken place.

Continued...



FRAMEWORK FOR  
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP  
IN EDUCATION  
PATHFINDER



## **Year 11**

Mrs Mahon sent a letter, dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, to all year 11 families to keep you abreast of what is happening in terms of assessments and exams. There is yet another U-turn where it seems that students in year 11 will now be taking 'mini-exams' that are set externally. I completely understand how frustrated year 11 will be with this news but it is extremely important that we keep on working hard and as focussed as we possibly can be so that we have a bank of evidence of your excellent work and so that you are ready for the 'mini-exams'.

## **Lockdown Clubs and BBS Community Events**

There are a number of lockdown clubs happening after school this week and in the coming weeks so do encourage your child to join in! Please don't forget that our 'Great Burton Borough Bake Off' deadline is tomorrow (14<sup>th</sup> January 2021) so please send in photos of your entries!

Next week's Science Club on Tuesday really intrigues me – it is apparently about osmosis and gummy bears! If you want to join in, you will need gummy bears, cups, paper towels, a measuring jug and water.

Thank you to all staff who are providing lockdown clubs and community events and to Mrs Stephens who is co-ordinating it all.

## **Positive comments – thank you!**

We are overwhelmed with the amount of support and wonderful emails we have received from families. Every single lovely comment is shared whether it be on social media or email and every single comment makes such a difference for us – thank you!

Best wishes and stay safe,



Krissi Carter  
Principal



FRAMEWORK FOR  
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP  
IN EDUCATION  
PATHFINDER

