



**BIDDULPH
HIGH
SCHOOL**

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Headteacher: **Mrs E Robinson BA(Hons)**



Potteries Educational Trust Head Office
City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College
Leek Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire ST4 2RU
Chief Executive Officer: **Mark Kent**

Dear Parent/Carer,

31st December 2020

Re: Covid-19 Update and Welcome

I am delighted to have been appointed as the new Headteacher of Biddulph High School and it is an absolute privilege to have been asked to lead the school into the next phase of its improvement and growth. Unfortunately, this is not how I would have liked to have started in this role, but I hope that you will be assured that we are taking every measure to keep our young people and staff safe at this time.

I have a strong understanding of Biddulph High School, and our local community, having been the Chair of Governors at the school for a few years and through living in Biddulph. I am committed to sustained improvement, building on the strong foundations that already exist, and striving for excellence in all aspects of what we do.

We have a number of exciting plans being developed ahead of the 2021/22 academic year, but we will limit the number of significant changes this academic year, focusing instead on getting everyday routines and habits consistent and ensuring high quality teaching and learning. This, of course, against the backdrop of a global pandemic which we will respond to as efficiently and effectively as possible.

My commitment to our students and parents/carers is to be a visible and approachable Headteacher; one who truly champions our students, and our local community, and is committed to the long-term success of the school. In doing so, I am keen to harness the views and energy of our parents/carers and will be finding ways to gather your views in the coming months.

Following the latest guidance from the Department for Education, we must inform you that there will be an extended staggered return to school following the Christmas break. This is to allow the school to arrange the logistics for the proposed lateral flow testing as directed by the Department for Education (DfE). Further information regarding testing will be sent to you from Monday 4th January.

- There will be **no remote or face-to-face teaching for any students**, except those who have been contacted individually (see below*), on **Monday 4th January**. Those students who have been contacted will be met in school by their Head of Year and shown to their designated room.
- There will be **no remote teaching for any students in years 9, 10 and Y12 A-Level until Monday 11th January**. Students can access assignments and learning tasks via MS Teams for this coming week. This allows time for us to set up testing, test our staff, organise the external examinations taking place and prioritise exam classes (as instructed by the DfE). From **Monday 11th January Y9, Y10 and Y12 A-Level students will access their lessons via MS Teams**.
- **Remote learning for Y11, Y13 and Y12 BTEC students will begin on Tuesday 5th January** and students will access their lessons virtually via MS Teams. **Students in Year 13, Year 11 and Year 12 BTEC and WorkSkills will now return on Monday 11th January for face-face-lessons**. Students must ensure that they bring a mask to wear around the school building.
- **Vocational examinations scheduled for the week beginning 4th January will go ahead as planned**. Students will register up in the sixth form office and will be directed to the examination room. Students must ensure that they have a mask to wear around the building.



- **All students will return as normal on Monday 18th January** (although this is subject to DfE changes). Please ensure that a mask is brought into school.
- Other groups of students identified as vulnerable by the Department for Education, will be contacted directly by the school and invited to return as normal on Monday 4th January to access the MS Teams lessons in school.* The children of critical workers who cannot access their learning online at home, can request a place by emailing the school office@biddulphhigh.co.uk Guidance on the current definition of critical workers can be found at: [Government Guidelines for Critical Workers](#)

Please see the attached table on the last page for clarification.

Home Learning

Lessons will start on Tuesday 05/01/21 at **9.15 am for Y11, Y13, Y12 BTEC and Workskills** and then on **Monday 11th January for all other students**. Students *do not* need to attend tutor group period while they are at home. Registers will be taken every lesson and attendance to lessons and submission of work is expected.

To help your child with accessing lessons, please read the attached guide "Accessing Live Lessons and work set". Your child can access Teams on a PC/laptop but also on a tablet or mobile (see guidance attached).

If your child cannot log on to Teams because there is an issue with their password, please contact the school via email office@biddulphhigh.co.uk or call reception on 01782 523977.

Some additional guidance for students:

1. Your lessons will appear in your Calendar, the same as your normal school timetable - remember that the first week back in January is Week 2.
2. Some lessons in calendar will say that there is no live lesson and will instead direct you to resources and/ or an assignment. You do not need to "join" this lesson - just complete the task(s) set.
3. When you join the lesson, you will be put into the lobby. Wait here until the teacher admits you to the lesson. Please remember that lessons may not start immediately as your teachers are moving rooms and may also have the rest of your class in the classroom, to get settled.
4. If you join more than 15 minutes after the start time, you will not be admitted. Please watch the recording of the lesson later or access the resources in the Class Materials folder or Assignments.
5. If your teacher also has the rest of your class in the classroom, they may not be able to answer questions in the chat immediately - please be patient!
6. During the lesson, your teacher may mute themselves at points during the lesson, especially if they have a class of students with them.
7. If there are technical issues during the lesson you must check the Class Materials folder and Assignments for the lesson resources.
8. Remember all lessons are recorded and the highest standards of behaviour are expected. You may be removed from the lesson if you breach expectations.
9. Submitting work - teachers will set assignments and you will be expected to upload work. If you are completing work on paper, please take a photo of your work and upload it to the assignment (see guidance attached). Do not email the work to your teacher.

Students can also access learning using MathsWatch and Seneca Learning to supplement the Teams lessons and resources.

It is a privilege to have been appointed and I look forward to working with you all in the coming months and years. In the meantime, do take good care of yourselves and your loved ones in these difficult times. If you have any questions please contact the school by email office@biddulphhigh.co.uk.

Yours faithfully



E Robinson
Headteacher



Diary of Arrangements for January 2021

Year Group	From Tuesday 5 th January	Week beginning 11 th January	Week beginning 18 th January
Year 9	Tasks and assignments will be set by your teacher on MS Teams. Please log in and complete the work set.	Remote teaching on MS Teams. Please follow your timetable.	Return to school. Please remember your mask.
Year 10	Tasks and assignments will be set by your teacher on MS Teams. Please log in and complete the work set.	Remote teaching on MS Teams. Please follow your timetable.	Return to school. Please remember your mask.
Year 11	Remote teaching on MS Teams. Please follow your timetable.	Return to school. Please remember your mask.	In school as normal.
Year 12 A-Level	Tasks and assignments will be set by your teacher on MS Teams. Please log in and complete the work set.	Remote teaching on MS Teams. Please follow your timetable.	Return to school. Please remember your mask.
Year 12 BTEC	Remote teaching on MS Teams. Please follow your timetable.	Return to school. Please remember your mask.	In school as normal.
Year 13	Remote teaching on MS Teams. Please follow your timetable.	Return to school. Please remember your mask.	In school as normal.