



**BIDDULPH
HIGH
SCHOOL**



**Potteries
Educational
Trust**

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

6th January 2021

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

As anticipated, we have entered another national lockdown. This has resulted in a change to our plans and I can only apologise for any stress and confusion you have felt over the past few days. Thank you for your understanding and patience at this time.

Testing of students, using the Lateral Flow Test, is now on hold but we would still appreciate you giving your consent to this through ParentPay before Friday 15th January. This will enable us to set this up ready for our full return to school.

Remote learning for all students will now be in operation for this half term. Guidance for working on MS Teams can be found on our school website and in the previous two letters home. ***If your child cannot log onto 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.*** A sheet outlining 'Remote Learning' protocols for students is attached to this correspondence.

We have set clear guidelines for staff in how to set and monitor this work and your child can expect a combination of 'live' lessons, recorded lessons, PowerPoint presentations, and assignments. However, we are still in a learning curve and this is a new and more complex way of working for teaching staff. Please email the school office if your child has difficulty or you have concerns.

The school remains open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable groups. 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](#). These students will be supervised by a mixture of teachers and teaching assistants on a rota system. Staff in school are being tested in order to keep everyone safe.

Vocational examinations scheduled for January are now cancelled. The school has not taken this decision lightly but, in view of the vulnerable nature of some of our students and the fact that many centres have decided to cancel, we feel that this is the best option for our students.

We have not yet received an update on what will happen with our **summer examinations**. Our message is clear. **Continued engagement in education is essential.** Whether students sit an exam, or not, is inconsequential. We are giving our students the knowledge and skills to be able to complete their courses effectively and move forward to the next stage of their learning. Exams are only a snapshot of learning at a specific moment in time and we never learn just to pass an exam! The more knowledge they have, the greater their choices and life chances. We await further guidance on what will happen with examinations and will update you as soon as we know.

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Y13 can expect their 'mock' examinations to be rescheduled and they should continue to work as normal. Year 11 mock examination results will be sent out followed by a **Y11 report to parents by Friday 15th January** and students will be given the opportunity to discuss their results with a member of staff.

Our priority is to continue to provide a high-quality education programme for your child, but we need your support to do this. Please try to ensure that your child has access to equipment and a quiet place to work. If your child is struggling, please encourage them to message their teacher through Teams to ask for help. We would encourage students to use other online provision such as BBC Bitesize, BBC2 and CBBC television programmes, and Seneca Learning.

From Monday 11th January we will re-introduce form time with Y9, Y10 and Y11 tutors. The school day will therefore start between 8.50am and 9am where an attendance register will be taken, and form time activities completed. Students should be promptly logged on by this time and can access this meeting through their Teams calendar. This will be followed by subject lessons on Teams starting at 9.15am. Information regarding BH6 will be communicated by the Sixth Form team separately.

We will be following our normal absence protocols and you may receive a call or text if your child has not attended form time. If a student is unwell and unable to attend their lessons, please can we request that parents continue to report absence on 01782 523977 as usual.

At Biddulph High School we pride ourselves on the quality of our pastoral care and despite our distance, we will continue to provide support to all our students. Our weekly assemblies, PSHE provision, My Personal Best activities and the popular House Quiz will take place in the form time sessions. Our form tutor team and wider pastoral staff will continue to keep a close eye on all our students. If you have any concerns regarding the well-being or safety of a student it should be reported to school immediately by telephone or to office@biddulphhigh.co.uk and will prompt a response from our Safeguarding Team. General concerns or queries can be directed to the school office.

Please look out for our safeguarding bulletin next week which will offer advice to parents on topics such as keeping your child safe online and how to access various support services and other external agencies, during this lockdown period.

By working together, we can support all of our students to continue in their learning and development. There is a light at the end of this tunnel, and we cannot wait to welcome our students back into school once this period of lockdown is over. I will continue to communicate information updates as we receive them in school and please be assured that we are doing everything we can to support your child through this challenging time.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs E C Robinson
Headteacher

