



THE BHS BULLETIN - No. 14

Week A—W/c Monday 25 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that this finds you all well and managing to stay safe.

It will not surprise you to know that there has been a great deal of development politically and nationally this week about schools and education. It seems to me that it is becoming increasingly difficult to avoid the worry of all national developments at the current time. If we are not careful, we can all overdose on media and press coverage of the current situation and this can sometimes only serve to exacerbate worry and anxiety.

I sincerely hope, therefore, that what follows helps to reassure you all that Bramhall High School continues to forge its hugely positive if not, at times, tricky destiny as we cope with the demands of the pandemic and the national lockdown.

New Faces

At the start of the new year we welcomed five new members of staff to our school community. Starting a new school is difficult but starting in the middle of a national lockdown is even more challenging. Nonetheless our new colleagues have certainly risen to the challenge. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Miss Rose Finney (mathematics teacher), Hasmita Patel, Elena Boden, Jennifer Mackay (teaching assistants) and Mr Paul Battle (science technician) to Bramhall High School.

Mass testing update

This week we have continued to administer the lateral flow tests to our staff body. As you will have undoubtedly read or heard, there is much debate on the reliability and efficacy of the Lateral Flow Devices with which schools have been provided. The announcement by the Secretary of State on Wednesday, that the testing of close contacts should be paused will have perhaps added to any concerns you may have had about the testing initiative. The approach and guidance from the DFE remains a test & protect approach – identifying asymptomatic cases to help reduce possible community transmission.

As a result, the Bramhall High School approach, at the current time, will be to continue to insist that any student or staff member who is identified as a close contact of a positive case self-isolates for a period of 10 days. We will continue to administer the test for our staff body on a weekly basis. Of course, if the guidance or situation changes, I will write to again with any further update.

Please be assured that we have a comprehensive risk assessment in place. The measures in our risk assessment are constantly under review and go towards reducing the spread of COVID-19 in the school building. The latest version of our risk assessment is available on the school website.

DFE Consultation on Awarding 2021 Grades

The Department for Education (DFE) has sent a document to all secondary schools and colleges in England to consult on the arrangements for awarding grades in Summer 2021. Whilst we are still at a consultation stage, it is clear that there is an expectation that students in exam years continue to study for all of their subjects, whether this is in school or remotely. Grades awarded will most likely take account of all work completed up until the summer (possibly around the time that final examinations would have taken place). Where there are non-examined elements to a course, for example in Art or any of the vocational subjects, students will be expected to complete all the necessary course elements. Schools will take account of all work being completed now, as well as the results of any previous assessments.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that all students in Year 11 continue to work to the very best of their ability and ensure they attend all live lessons and submit every key piece that is set by their teachers. The mock examinations in English and mathematics that were scheduled for March, will be an in-class assessment determined by each Department.



The DFE consultation period runs from Friday 15th January until Friday 29th January and we hope to hear shortly, with absolute clarification, on how final grades will be awarded. The link for GCSE/ A level is <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021> and for vocational courses [Consultation on alternative arrangements for the award of VTQs and other general qualifications in 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-alternative-arrangements-for-the-award-of-vtqs-and-other-general-qualifications-in-2021).

Protecting Mental Health and Wellbeing

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we live our lives and we are all aware of the mental strains and stresses that this unprecedented period has taken on ourselves and our families. The effects may be even more profound in young people, many of whom are concerned about their families and friends and about the effect of the global crisis on their education and futures. It is important that we take time to speak to, and listen to, children and our staff will continue to check on students' welfare. Miss Kennedy (Safeguarding & Pastoral lead) has put together some advice and key information later in this bulletin.

ICT Support

We have worked with a large number of families to ensure students have the necessary ICT hardware to access live lessons. If you have not yet been in touch with school and are worried that you do not have the facility to join lessons, please email school urgently.

Remote Learning

Our provision continues to strongly focus on delivering live online lessons to our students. I am delighted to hear that teachers are reporting a much higher level of engagement and submission from our students during the current lockdown. I have been impressed by the efforts of all the school community have made to ensure students continue to learn in these difficult times. Please remember all the information about our remote learning provision is published in the COVID-19 section on our school website. If you have any concerns about our provision, then Mr P Wraith (Assistant Headteacher) is available for you to contact at the school.

To date we have worked with a large number of families to ensure students have the necessary IT hardware to access live lessons. This we will continue to do so throughout the lockdown period as I know difficulties with ICT can arise at any time. If you are experiencing difficulties with any IT issues or the remote provision, please contact the ICT support desk – see details below.

Contacts

As things are changing all the time, it is important that you have the right people to contact. Please find below some key names and email addresses.

Heads of Year

Y7	Mrs Sue Ahmed	sahmed@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Y8	Mrs A Conduit	aconduit@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Y9	Mrs S Stevens	sstevens@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Y10	Mr J Flynn	jflynn@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk
Y11	Miss S Magee	smagee@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk



Safeguarding support continues to be provided and managed in school by:

Miss Janet Kennedy, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) jkennedy@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Mrs Sue Ahmed, Deputy Safeguarding Lead sahmed@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Mrs Sally Stevens & Miss Sophie Magee (Acting Deputy DSLs) see above

Ms N Joynson (Quality of Education – Curriculum & Examinations) njoynson@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Mr P Wraith (Quality of Education – Teaching and Learning inc. remote learning provision)

pwraith@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Miss C Lewis (Pastoral and Inclusion – SEND & The Bramhall Way) clewis@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Mr J Longworth (Quality of Education – Data and reporting) jlongworth@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Miss J Kennedy (Safeguarding, pastoral care and attendance) jkennedy@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Mr S Stonehouse (Transition and marketing)

s.stonehouse@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

In addition, adults with key responsibilities will make weekly contact:

Looked After Children Miss Clare Lewis clewis@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Medical Needs Coordinator Mrs Heather Renshaw hrenshaw@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

SEND Mr Chris Masters cmasters@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Young Carers Miss Che Furr cfurr@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Free School Meal Vouchers finance@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Issues with IT itsupport@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Attendance (of those expected in school) attendance@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

For all other enquiries office@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Once again, thank you for your continued support and the messages of praise and support you have sent into school. They really do mean a lot to us and I do pass all these on to staff as it gives us all a lift in these strange times.

Mr P Williams

Headteacher



Welfare - New 'normal'...

We are living in a time that is anything other than 'normal' and many of us are struggling with feelings of loneliness, low mood, frustration and boredom.

We may be physically apart currently, but there is still much support available from school and school-linked services and, we are only a phone call or email away from being able to help.

Support from school:

- In-school places for keyworker children and other individuals.
- IT and Wi-Fi help.
- Home visits.
- Free School Meal vouchers for those who qualify and additional Food Bank vouchers for any family in need.
- General Pastoral Care and support from your teachers, Head of Year and SENDCo (use staff school email addresses or contact via phone)
- I'm Worried button on web site
- 1:1 Emotion Coaching and mental wellness support from mental wellbeing trained staff (ask your Head of Year to refer you)
- 1:1 Parental support from Anne Cresswell for families experiencing increased stress and difficulty

Support from school linked agencies:

- 1:1 Behaviour support from Anne McBride, Behaviour Support Service.
- 1:1 Counselling from Beacon practitioner, Joanna Page.
- 1:1 General support from our School Nurse, Louise Benn.
- 1:1 family support from our School Age Plus (early help) worker, Alex Jackaman.

Contact your Head of Year for referrals, appointments and general support:

Y7	Mrs Ahmed	Sahmed@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk	0161 439 8045	Ext. 255
Y8	Mrs Conduit	aconduit@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk	" "	Ext. 171
Y9	Mrs Stevens	sstevens@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk	" "	Ext. 256
Y10	Mr Flynn	jflynn@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk	" "	Ext. 556
Y11	Ms Magee	smagee@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk	" "	Ext. 655
	Safeguarding Lead	jkennedy@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk	" "	Ext.155
	Attendance	jwilliams@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk	" "	Ext. 151



**Wider support:**

<https://www.kooth.com/> is an anonymous site which helps children and young people to feel safe and confident in exploring their mental health worries and accessing support.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/> for information and free resources for families as part of Children and Young Peoples Mental health Week (1-7 Feb.)

Fabulous Creative Care kit free resource from Young People's Arc. You can download a copy of the 36-page book full of ideas, activities and tips to support wellbeing here: <https://arc-centre.org/young-peoples-arc/>



Stockport residents can access **free** e-therapy, peer support programmes and counselling through: <https://www.selfhelpservices.org.uk/>

The charity, Mind, has excellent guidance, support and resources for keeping yourself mentally well during Covid: <https://www.mind.org.uk/workplace/coronavirus-and-work/>

Self-harm and Suicide. PAPYRUS is a national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide. The organisation has recently published a guide for parents created by those who have experience of supporting a young person struggling with their mental health. Download: <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Supporting-Your-Child-A-Guide-for-Parents.pdf>

The HOPELINK helpline is available to anyone under 35 who are experiencing thoughts of suicide, and anyone who may be concerned about them. Papyrus' trained suicide prevention advisers are trained to help young people focus on staying safe from suicide. Their training enables them to provide advice and support to help forward and stay alive.





Protect young people whilst on-line: Grooming

What is it?

Grooming is a process used to prepare a child for sexual abuse. An offender's aim when grooming will be to gain access to a child and build a 'relationship' with that child away from any adult supervision.

What happens?

Once a relationship is established an offender may then introduce sexual themes to the conversation, for example, asking the child about their sexual experiences, sharing pornography with them or asking them for sexual pictures of themselves.

Often an offender will attempt to get a child to meet them in the real world in order to abuse them. Increasingly

some offenders are also persuading children to perform sexual acts on webcam.

Signs of grooming.

Look out for an unhealthy or heightened level of internet usage. Has your child become more secretive about who they are talking to and where they conduct their online conversations?

To your knowledge has your child engaged in any sexual behaviour online or via text, chat or webcam? Have they got any new electronic devices or gifts that family did not give them or they may not have been able to obtain for themselves?

Talk to your child about meeting their online friend's offline. If they intend to meet any of these online friends you need to set clear boundaries, tell them why you are concerned for their safety and that they must take you or a trusted adult with them to the meeting.

What can I do to protect my child online?

Talk to your child about:

- * What sites they use.
- * The friends they have and how they know them.
- * How they communicate with these friends.
- * The type of information they can share.

There are fantastic parental resources on the Think You Know website:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

Miss J Kennedy

SLT Lead for Safeguarding, Pastoral Care & Attendance



Free School Meals.

Supermarket vouchers have now been issued for families up to February half term. These will come by email and text from schoolvouchers.com

If you have any queries relating to the vouchers, please contact the finance office by email:

finance@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Changes in circumstances may mean you have become eligible for free school meals. To find out more and apply go to:

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Increasing Data Allowance

Details below are for have an increase in your data allowance (if eligible).

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>

Essentially this is open for any student that meets the following criteria:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

In addition, as a school, we can make this request on behalf of any students that meet following additional criteria:

- in any year group and have been advised to shield because they (or someone they live with) are clinically extremely vulnerable in any year group attending a hospital school

To request the data increase, parents need to get in touch with us in school with the following information:

- the name of the mobile phone account holder
- the number of the mobile device

the mobile network of that device (for example Three). The school will then need to make the request on your behalf. If you are eligible, please contact the finance office:- finance@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk

Student Notices

The PE department have organised a 5 week physical challenge from Bramhall to Tokyo. Every week we are recording each year groups total mileage to see which year group can get the nearest to 8235 miles (which is the total distance from Bramhall to Tokyo) by the end of this half term. Students are required to complete a weekly log of how many miles they can run, cycle or walk and send this to pe@bramhallhigh.stockport.sch.uk. Year 9 are currently in the lead with 333.41 miles.

Students are also expected to complete Mr Park's weekly sports quiz. We are aiming to beat last lock down entries which was 2574 over a 7 week period.

PE Department



School Nurse appointments

If you normally see the School Nurse, she will be resuming appointments – in school – from next week. Your Head of Year will contact you with your appointment time. Please ensure you arrive via main reception, wearing a face mask, and follow our Covid safety guidance and practices whilst here. The meetings will be held in a room just off main reception; you will not be able to enter the main school.