

Tuesday 5 January 2021



Beckfoot School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Beckfoot School Update

As promised, I am writing to you following the end of day one in our second period of lockdown.

As you can imagine it's been a little busy at school given the lateness of the announcement last night. Having said that, I feel we are in a much stronger position than last time and we are aiming for full Live Lesson teaching from tomorrow (technology permitting!).

We had over fifty young people in the building today and they were supported throughout by our staff. I hope they had a good day of learning, but it is all a little odd to be in this position again despite our recent experiences.

There has been scant detail coming from the DfE today about exams and I feel I need to be able to communicate something to our students in Years 11 and 13 regardless. Therefore, I will be speaking to all those young people during their tutor time tomorrow though I have no idea, yet, what I will be telling them. I guess what I really need to do is tell them we will look after them and that they must continue to engage fully with us whilst we await the details from the government and Ofqual.

Our arrangements for families in receipt of free school meals are almost ready to share and we will be doing so later this week. I apologise for the delay, but we are working as fast as possible to get things right and I thank you for your patience.

I want to thank you for your messages of support throughout the day and I must admit to being a little overwhelmed by them; not like me at all. It means a great deal and, whilst I know we don't get everything right all the time, it is very reassuring to know you continue to have faith in us and what we are trying to do for our very precious students.

Finally, below is a reminder of our Blended Learning provision. We have also included a few typical questions which I hope will help. If you feel you need any more assistance or information, then please contact the relevant member of my Leadership Team or myself.

For now, though, please continue to take care of yourselves and those around you.

Simon Wade
Headteacher



Headteacher:

Simon Wade

Chair of Academy Trustees:

John Winkley

Beckfoot
Trust

A summary of our Blended Learning provision:

- We will be delivering a full timetable of live lessons, including tutor time and core PE. There will not be live lessons for P6 for Year 11. Should you have any queries about how to access live lessons, a short video tutorial can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3y7okDJ3-w&feature=youtu.be>
- Please note that for PE it may well be that the teacher starts off the lesson but sets the students a physical activity to complete.
- Expectations of presentation remain high. Students need to work neatly on lined paper for written work and plain paper for Art / DT and other relevant subjects. All work should be stored in a folder / plastic wallet ready to be brought back into school.
- Students will still be set Home Learning (homework) and need to complete this independently as they would do were school open.
- Should a teacher be unable to deliver a live lesson, a Teams Assignment will be set for students to complete.
- Students will receive feedback on key pieces of work with the same regularity and using the same systems (often whole class feedback sheets and reteaching) as in school. These 'Progress Points' will still form part of lessons and in addition a Teams Assignment will be set in order that students can easily submit their work.
- Participation in live lessons will be monitored. Heads of Year and Pastoral Managers will discuss participation with families as part of their phone calls home.
- For all lessons, students must have their cameras off at all times and only turn on their microphones or use the chat function when specifically asked to do so by their teacher. Improper use of the microphone or chat function may result in these functions being removed for students.

What to do if you have a query:

"My child is stuck on some work"

You or your child can email the relevant subject teacher

"My child does not have access to a computer"

Please contact Emily Wintersgill, PA to Leadership Team, on becejw@beckfoot.org

"My child has a question about behaviour in a live lesson" or "My child is struggling with their well-being whilst working from home"

You or your child can contact the relevant Head of Year or Pastoral Manager

"My child has additional needs and is struggling to access Blended Learning"

Please contact Mike Barnes, our SENCo, on becmgb@beckfoot.org

"I have a question about Home Learning (Homework)"

Please contact Kelly Heaton, Assistant Headteacher, on beckmh@beckfoot.org

"I have a question about live lessons or 'My Learning Resources' "

Please contact Nikki Sullivan, Deputy Headteacher, on becnls@beckfoot.org