



## Acting Head's Update for parents and students

Wednesday, March 25th 2020 Issue 1

Over the coming weeks we will do our very best to ensure that clear communication with our school community continues. We intend to provide a regular Acting Headteacher update. This will allow us to keep our families informed about key areas of school, highlighting other documents that may have been sent out or uploaded to

the website each day, as well as links to the latest Government guidance. I hope families find this useful.

Thank you so much for your positive messages of support over the last week or so. We are all having to work our way through the current situation in ways we don't fully understand. It is really heartening to know that most

families feel supported with the provision for learning we have made so far in what are very, very challenging circumstances. Please see today's updates below.

**Laura O'Leary**  
Acting Headteacher

## Students in school

We appreciate that the current situation is rapidly changing, The Government's latest response to the Coronavirus is summarised below:

"The single most important action we can all take, in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives. When we reduce our day-to-day contact with other people, we will reduce the spread of the infection. That is why the Government is now (23 March 2020) introducing three new measures

1. Requiring people to stay at home, except for very limited purposes
2. Closing non-essential shops and community spaces

3. Stopping all gatherings of more than two people in public

The school remains open for children of 'Critical Workers' and the 'Vulnerable', however we do ask that your child stays at home unless it is an absolutely essential they attend school. We must all work together to protect everyone, this includes our students, our staff and the whole population. [CLICK HERE https://bit.ly/2JctEPF](https://bit.ly/2JctEPF) to read the Government guidance in full.

If you need your child to attend school please email me directly at [Laura.OLeary@robertsutton.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:Laura.OLeary@robertsutton.staffs.sch.uk)

## Home Learning

All work is available on Firefly.

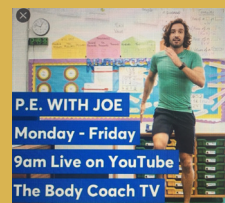
For students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10, it is essential that they continue with their studies at home in preparation for returning to school once we are able to open fully again.

We appreciate the positive feedback about the resources we have provided on Firefly – over the last few days we have been made aware of some technical issues linked to the number of users trying to access Firefly worldwide.

At this time high quality 'Home Learning' is more important than ever and we will ensure work continues to be uploaded.

When it is safe to do so a paper pack of work will be sent home to Year 10 students.

If parents have any questions about how to access this work or suggestions for further development please do not hesitate to contact school. If you have any issues with Firefly please email [firefly@robertsutton.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:firefly@robertsutton.staffs.sch.uk)



Join in each morning with Joe Wicks as he leads the nation with his PE lesson. **JOIN IN NOW**



If you need advice on how to look after your mental health whilst self-isolating: **READ MORE**



'Twinkl' is providing FREE resources for you to use today. Use the code 'UKTwinkleHELPS'. **FIND THEM HERE**

## Message for Years 11 and 13

Dear parents and carers,

It was with regret and sadness at the situation we find ourselves in that Mrs McDowall and I met with Year 11 and Year 13 students on Friday to confirm what the Government has announced – that due to the Covid-19 virus GCSE examinations will not take place as planned and that schools across the country should close, except to offer childcare to certain groups of children.

I know how upsetting this is for the students, particularly those in Year 11 and 13 who have worked so hard towards their exams and who really did deserve their chance to shine.

As ever, we remain exceptionally proud of the good grace, spirit and resilience of our young people. They have truly done themselves and the whole school

community proud in the way they have responded to these events and I know that their excellent attitude will stand them in good stead.

As all their teachers have stressed to the students, this was by no means their last day at BRS, nor was it the celebration that they rightly deserve and that the Year 11 and 13 team is determined for them to have. It is our firm intention that the Year 11 Prom will go ahead as soon as appropriate (we are working towards a date before Christmas, but are acutely aware that currently nothing is certain), Year 11 will still receive their hoodies and any ordered photographs and we will ensure that the young people in Year 11 have the chance to say their goodbyes and celebrate their time at BRS before moving on to their next steps.

On behalf of myself, Mrs McDowall and all of the teachers and form tutors who worked closely with Year 11 and 13, we would like to thank you for your support and wish all students and families the very best in these challenging circumstances. I

am planning to write to all Year 11 and Year 13 students and their parents each week via email, to provide clarity around any updates and ensure that all information released by the Department for Education is passed on to children and families.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me, should you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Laura O'Leary and Mrs McDowall

### Free School Meals

All parents who have children in receipt of Free School Meals should have received an email with details of Free School Meal provision during school closure.

### Safeguarding and supporting our families

Our Pastoral team will be continuing to support families during this unsettling time and will stay in close contact.

For any safeguarding issues, the Designated Safeguarding Leader in the school please email [Laura.Wilson@robertsutton.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:Laura.Wilson@robertsutton.staffs.sch.uk) with any concerns.

### Good News!

As part of our school Character Development Programme, we asked Year 7 & 8 pupils to devise initiatives aimed at supporting HOPE, a local homeless charity. The response that we received from the school, local parish and the community has been overwhelming. As a Catholic school we pride ourselves on looking out for those in need and offering them a helping hand. Given the current situation we find the country in,

it is awe-inspiring to see the generosity and thoughtfulness of our young pupils.

We hope that this collection goes some way to help the shortfall that homeless and food bank charities find themselves in at this time.



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