



# Blanchelande College

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that, given the circumstances, this letter finds you and your families well. What follows should provide you and your son/daughter with the information needed to commence remote learning tomorrow morning. Provision will be slightly different from last time; hopefully even better!

## **A single platform: Microsoft Teams**

During this lockdown, with greater familiarity with Teams on the part of students and teachers, we will be aiming to teach *the full academic timetable*, with a few minor adjustments.

## **Check the calendar on Teams**

By the time you read this, your son or daughter should be able to see most, if not all, of their lessons timetabled by their teachers within the Microsoft Teams calendar.

To put it most simply, your son or daughter simply needs to go to that calendar for each lesson, click 'join', and they will be able to participate in their lessons with their teacher and classmates.



## **When does remote learning begin?**

Remote learning begins tomorrow morning, Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> January.

- **9.00 am:** all senior school students must attend an online form period with their form teacher. In this period form teachers will go through a powerpoint explaining how remote learning will operate, including expectations of participation and behaviour. This will last around half an hour. There will then be a pause, during which some students may need to address any technical issues by staying online with their form teacher.
- **10.30 am:** normal lessons begin.

## **What will be the routine from Tuesday?**

- From Tuesday, online form time will be from 8.35 am – 8.50 am.
- The normal timetable will run as per the lessons in the Teams calendar.
- Teachers will be providing five or ten minute gaps between lessons; this means that *single lessons* will be 30 minutes (rather than 35 minutes); *double lessons* will be 60 minutes (rather than 70 minutes); *triple lessons* are more complicated – teachers will explain these with their own classes.



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## **Attendance**

Our pastoral responsibility towards your son or daughter continues during this period of remote learning. The most fundamental way that we can continue to support you and your son/daughter is by monitoring their attendance at the beginning and throughout the day. For this reason, form teachers will be taking the usual registers on iSAMS between 8.35 am – 8.50 am. Your son/ daughter must attend this online session during this window. Where students do not register during *form time* each morning, Mrs Green will contact parents.

Teachers will also register their classes at the beginning of each lesson. Attendance is mandatory. Please note that lessons will not be recorded and therefore students must participate live, just as they would in school.

If there is a reason why your son/daughter is not able to attend online school, please contact the school office in the normal way.

**Email**      [office@blanchelande.sch.gg](mailto:office@blanchelande.sch.gg)

## **What you can expect from Blanchelande teachers**

Blanchelande's teachers will be striving to deliver high-quality live lessons as the norm. Please note that in some instances live lessons may be substituted by recorded lessons, videos, self-guided powerpoints or other activities. In some instances this may be because a different format works much better than live lessons – this is likely to be the case in practical subjects, such as Food and Nutrition (where stopping and starting the video is helpful!). In other instances teachers may have unavoidable childcare responsibilities. Whatever the case, we are committed to providing quality lesson material for every lesson. I would only ask for understanding that online teaching isn't a walk in the park!

There will also be some prep (homework) but this is likely to be in a reduced form. Staring at a screen all day is draining, and we want students to have time for other things, particularly exercise.

## **Online etiquette**

Students should behave with the same standards we expect in the classroom. While of course uniform is not necessary, students should be properly and appropriately dressed. Students should have their webcam switched on unless the teacher asks the class to switch them off. This is so that teachers can see that students are participating in lessons. There should be no 'double screening' during lessons. Other guidelines will be given to students in form time on Monday morning.

## **School buildings are closed**

Further to my email earlier this evening, by the States of Guernsey directive the school building is closed and therefore we are unable to provide onsite supervision for children



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of key workers or vulnerable children. Please, therefore, do not attempt to collect any equipment or belongings from school until you are notified that this is again permitted. Teachers will be taking this into account (eg textbooks being in lockers), but if you find that something really important is lacking, please notify your son or daughter's form teacher.

## Pastoral care

If you feel that your son or daughter is struggling emotionally or mentally, please contact us without delay. Our pastoral team will keep a constantly updated list of children requiring additional checking-in, and we are open to having video calls on Teams with individual students and, where helpful, parents.

In the first instance, please contact your son/daughter's form tutor with a pastoral concern, but our senior pastoral team are also available.

Louisa Eccles	Head of Pastoral Care	<a href="mailto:ecclesl@blanchelande.sch.gg">ecclesl@blanchelande.sch.gg</a>
Hugh Tabel	Deputy Head of Pastoral Care & Head of Lower Seniors	<a href="mailto:tabelh@blanchelande.sch.gg">tabelh@blanchelande.sch.gg</a>
Darren Broad	Head of Upper Seniors: Years 10-11	<a href="mailto:broadd@blanchelande.sch.gg">broadd@blanchelande.sch.gg</a>
Mike Elward	Vice-Principal	<a href="mailto:elwardm@blanchelande.sch.gg">elwardm@blanchelande.sch.gg</a>

Keep safe.

Yours sincerely,

Robert O'Brien  
Principal