



14 January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Re: Whole school update - 14 January 2021

It feels like we have been back in school for much longer than eight school days and there have been a large number of changes and developments over this short period of time! I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all parents, carers and to the students themselves for working with us over the past two weeks, as the staff team at Brockington College have worked tirelessly to set up quality learning processes and routines for all students, in all year groups, across the school, whether attending critical worker / vulnerable provision in school or learning from home. Thank you to all who have expressed their support and thanks towards staff. This has been very gratefully received by all and has been very heartening.

Live lesson timetable from Monday 18 January onwards

We have altered the initial timetable sent out to parents/carers prior to the Prime Minister's announcement that all students should work from home. We have further developed the timetable, which will now feature five live lessons per day for each year group, which is beyond the expectations set out by the Department for Education. Our plan is that this will now be sustained for the remainder of the period that whole year groups of students are working remotely. Students attending onsite, who are identified as vulnerable and children of critical workers, are joining live lessons from a class base in exactly the same way as those working remotely, ensuring that every student gets exactly the same experience. Live lesson content continues to take a variety of forms, as it would during normal face to face lessons, from direct teaching, initial instruction and independent tasks set for students to complete alongside facilitation of learning with work set by their teachers. Details of the Google Classroom codes needed to access the live lessons, can be found on the timetables. There are now specific Google Classrooms set up for each subject, so students will need to join the class for each subject they study in order to access the lessons. Staff will continue to deliver lessons which will last approx. 50 minutes, to enable staff in school and students at home to prepare for their next session. Please note these timetables have been set up as live documents and they are subject to change and should be checked frequently. A reminder of option classes for year 10 students will be sent to students, via their school email address, later today.

The following timetable links show the timetables for each year group and will be updated after the final lesson on Friday 15 January to show the two-week timetable that will run from Monday 18 January:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
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Lesson times will remain as follows:

Period	Year 7, 8 and 9	Year 10 and 11
1	9:05am to 10:05am	9:05am to 10:05am
2	10:25am to 11:25am	10:05am to 11:05am
3	11:25am to 12:25pm	11:25am to 12:25pm
4	12:25pm to 1:25pm	1pm to 2pm
5	2pm to end of day (staggered times remain)	2pm to end of day (staggered times remain)

It is important that parents/carers ensure that their child is attending and engaged in all lessons - just as parents/carers are required to ensure students attend school under 'normal' circumstances. Please contact us if you are finding this difficult and would like support; by working in partnership we can be successful. Do also remind your child that we expect good behaviour and conduct in 'live' lessons. Any student disrupting the learning for others will be dealt with, which could result in students being removed from access to live lessons for a period of time.

Free school meals

The government have announced that the national voucher scheme will continue. Students attending onsite provision will continue to receive their lunch in school. Parents/carers of students learning from home, will receive their vouchers via email, provided by Edenred. The school will send a text messages to alert parents and carers when emails have been processed. Parents/carers are reminded that Enderby Mission Church food bank can be contacted via emfoodbank@gmail.com.



Student support

Please get in touch with our pastoral team who may be able to offer wellbeing advice and support to both students and families. We know that some of our students are finding their mental health a challenge at this time and so we would ask that if you are concerned about your child and need further support for them, please do get in touch, initially, via your child's head of year or pastoral manager.

	Head of Year	Pastoral Manager
Year 7	Miss Gaskell	Mr Coombs
Year 8	Mr Clark	Mrs Underwood
Year 9	Mr Higham	Mr Smith
Year 10	Mr Marsden	Mrs Heath
Year 11	Mr Marsden	Mr Mayes

[YoungMinds](#), the UK's leading charity fighting for children and young people's mental health, also has some helpful suggestions.

Some ideas of things young people can do to support themselves if feeling anxious and/or low:

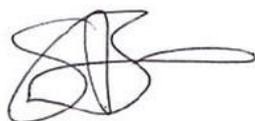
- go outside in your garden
- ask for help/talk to people/use one of the helplines or websites below
- create something • Write about how you feel/create a journal
- breathing exercises – breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth
- find a positive distraction (reading, drawing, watch something light-hearted, games puzzles and word searches). Listen to soothing songs
- self soothe – take a warm shower or bath, find a grounding object
- put your feet on the floor and push your toes into the ground
- drink water
- exercise
- eat healthily
- visualisation – spend a sort period of time thinking about your favourite or safe place.

Laptop donations

We are aware that a number of families are working hard to access all of the online provision through mobile devices such as tablets and mobile phones, but we are also conscious that it is much easier for students to access and complete work using a laptop computer. As a school, we have now distributed over 50 laptops provided by the government, alongside all of our existing available technology, to families who have needed them, however it is clear that some families are still struggling to access a laptop to complete work effectively. As such, we are putting out this appeal to our Brockington families, and to our wider local community, to ask for any donations of laptops that can be reconditioned and redistributed by the school to families who need support. These laptops might be older machines that are still capable of accessing the Internet that you have set aside after upgrading to another computer; or you may know a local business that might be able to help. Whatever the case, it would be wonderful if our community could come together to support one another at this time. If you feel that you can help a student who might be struggling at this stage with the donation of a laptop computer, please email itsupport@brockington.leics.sch.uk or call the college to speak to Mr Jones or Mr Spencer, our IT Support Team, who will be able to discuss things further with you and also outline how we would recondition any donations for use by our students. Please feel free to pass on this plea to family and friends.

I wish to thank you all again for your continued tremendous support.

Yours sincerely



Sadie Batstone
Principal

