

Brine Leas School

Headteacher's Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, let me say thank you to the many of you who have supported us as we try to support your children and young adults through what has been a very challenging time for us all. It is impossible to meet everyone's requests under the current circumstances, but we've been doing the best that we can with all our children, particularly those who are vulnerable or children of key workers.

Many things have changed about the national response to COVID-19 in the past few weeks and there remains many more likely to change in the coming weeks, not least of which are in the education sector. There have been lots of publications and guidance issued and we are still awaiting the specific guidance for secondary schools.

Our aim is to reopen at the earliest safe opportunity. At this stage it is unclear when that will be. The government's aim is for some face to face contact with Years 10 and 12 before the summer break. We have much planning, training, reorganising and risk-assessing to do before this becomes a possibility. That is what we are currently doing, and I will keep you updated on the progress towards this.

We continue to train, resource and plan for expansions of our online learning offer. Our aim is to provide on a weekly basis for each subject and every student:

- an online lesson and online materials to supplement this
- live online sessions where the student can ask a specialist teacher about the work in their subject
- individual feedback on work submitted via Microsoft Teams

While this is an aim, it is already happening for some subjects and some year groups. We are working towards making this universal as quickly as we can. I'm sure that you are as keen as we are to make this happen.

All students can access Microsoft Teams already by logging into Office365 at www.office.com with their normal school credentials and there are groups for every class that they are in. What we are working on is filling that platform with the necessary learning materials, lessons and feedback capability and there is more information on this in the Teaching and Learning newsletter.

Working on Microsoft Teams allows us to deliver most of the learning that is needed, but we are supplementing this with some new online learning platforms for all year groups that will be launched after half term.

As I mentioned to you last week, I have met the Local Governing Board and the Trust and they have approved these plans. I had hoped to share a more detailed plan with you with regard to reopening the school, but I have been awaiting the secondary school guidance which has not yet been published. When the guidance is published, I will update the plan and share it with you.

This week you have been sent the letter from the Local Authority to parents and a link to the latest government guidance for parents. We always place a copy of these onto the website for reference and accessibility and they are on the school closure section accessible from the front page.

I hope that you can get some kind of break in the next few days and enjoy the good weather

Thank you for your continued support.

David Cole
Headteacher