



BINGLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Belong Grow Succeed

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f Bingley Grammar School

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following government guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19) we have closed our school.

The government says that this closure is until further notice.

The government guidance states that every child who can be safely cared for at home should be to limit the spread of infection. However, schools have been asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Bradford Council has identified some schools that will stay open to meet the needs of vulnerable children and the children of key workers. Bingley Grammar School will be staying open for this purpose. This is under constant review and we will update the website as soon as we know if the situation on school closure changes.

Below is the latest health advice on coronavirus (COVID-19), some frequently asked questions and some contact information that we hope is useful.

Latest health advice

- For the latest advice and information on COVID-19, people are advised to visit www.nhs.uk/coronavirus
- When schools close from Friday, do not let your children visit elderly people (age 70 or over), those who have a long-term health condition, those who are pregnant, or people who have a weakened immune system.
- If any of your family develops symptoms of a high temperature and a new, continuous cough, follow the advice on the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus. DO NOT visit your GP, pharmacy or hospital. If symptoms persist or get worse use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service - 111.nhs.uk/covid-19/ - you should only call NHS 111 if you cannot get help online.
- If you have an underlying health condition follow the government advice <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>
- If your child or anyone in the household shows symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) they should self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days.

Vulnerable groups and key workers

If your child belongs to one of the vulnerable groups, they will have the opportunity to attend Bingley Grammar School.

Who are the vulnerable groups?

They are:

- children who are classed as CIN, CP or LAC
- children with an Education, Health and Care Plan

If your child is classed as a vulnerable student school will contact you directly.

In addition to this the school will be open for children whose parents are required to work as they have been identified as key workers. The government guidance providing the most up to date information about key workers can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

However, if your child falls into one of these categories, BUT has complex health needs then you should follow Public Health England advice about social distancing. If you have any concerns, please contact your school or Bradford Council's children's services on 01274 435600 for advice.

Any children who do not fall into these categories should remain at home with appropriate care until further notice.

We would appreciate it if parents/carers who believe that their child falls into one of the categories above who wish their child to attend could e-mail the school on keyworker@bingleygrammar.org or telephone school on 01274 807700 (school hours only) so appropriate provision can be planned for. If you are a key worker, we will also ask you to complete a form, including details of your key worker status. This is to ensure that we have the relevant information needed so we can ascertain the correct numbers per day meaning we can cater both for food and staff/student ratios. Please send this to the e-mail address above.

In the first instance Bingley Grammar School will be open between 8:00am and 15:30pm. Students should report to the back door of the Quinn building (accessed through the car park). They must wear their school lanyards however they do not need to wear school uniform. There will be breakfast and lunch provided, however, students can bring their own food if desired.

With regards the provision it is likely it will consist of

- Time to complete work that has been set by teachers
- Social time
- Leisure activity in school

Providing work to pupils who are not attending school

The school has been working to ensure that work is made available for pupils who are not attending school.

We have asked teachers to contact students with instructions about work that they should be completing at home. The methods that teachers will use to contact students are email (using the school's Gmail addresses), ClassCharts (where work is set using the homework feature) or Google Classrooms. Please be aware that this may be affected if staff become unwell.

All students will be e-mailed a link to a Google Drive called 'Home Education' where resources and activities are being uploaded into folders (this is a work in progress at the moment). This folder is not

the only set resources being used by staff. Additional resources may be emailed or delivered to students via ClassCharts or google classrooms. Individual teacher emails to students will provide more information and clarity.

In addition to this, details of recommended learning platforms and websites have also been uploaded onto the school website for students to investigate and complete as independent learning as well.

Examinations

External Public examinations for pupils in Years 11 and 13 have been cancelled.

At this moment in time there is no further information on what will be done beyond a broad assurance that 'children will get the qualifications they need'. We have asked Year 11 and Year 13 students to keep checking their emails and will communicate any updates to them and yourselves as soon as we receive any.

We recognise and share the disappointment and upset that this has caused for these students and will do our best to support them in whatever the next steps will be.

Pastoral support and safeguarding

Pupils may also need to contact pastoral staff should issues arise whilst the School is closed. If there are any concerns of a pastoral or safeguarding nature, students or parents/carers can contact the following staff:

Year 7 and 8 – robert.booth@bingleygrammar.org

Year 9 and 10 – jamil.parapia@bingleygrammar.org

Year 11 – matthew.atkinson@bingleygrammar.org

Y12 and Y13 – simon.greening@bingleygrammar.org

When emailing please also insert the following two email addresses in case of staff illness:

matthew.atkinson@bingleygrammar.org – Designated Safeguarding Lead

robin.ward@bingleygrammar.org – Deputy Safeguarding Lead

We would also like to make you aware of www.kooth.com which is an online service from the NHS providing online mental health services.

Free Schools Meals Support

The government have stated that vouchers will be supplied for students who are in receipt of free school meals. We are waiting further guidance regarding how this will work. In addition to this, we have been made aware of the following provisions:

Windhill Community Centre (Shipley) have cancelled their courses but are staying open to provide free meals between 9 - 10.30am for breakfast, 12.30 – 1pm for lunch and then 4 – 5pm. Their number is 01274 588831 but advise that families are directed to their Facebook page for up to date information.

Café West in Allerton are operating a cooked meal delivery service to local families and their number is 01274 488499. They hope to be able to deliver enough meals to last families five days but are in

need of donations of store foods eg, tins, packets, flour etc. and desperately need food containers (if anyone can help?).

Bradford Council have asked that the following links are shared:

Other useful contact numbers

- Job Centre Plus Benefits Enquiry line: 0345 604 3719
- You can find local help on the Money Advice Service website.
- Citizens Advice Bureau: 0844 111 444. To find your local advice centre go to <http://www.divabradford.org.uk>
- Housing advice: The Housing Options Service - housing advice: 01274 435999
- Samaritans: 24-hour helpline for the depressed, distressed and suicidal: 08457 909090
- If you need support for your mental health, advice and support is available online at My Wellbeing College.
- Meal provision for the vulnerable or those in isolation in the Bradford district can be found at Wellsprings Together.
- Bevan House: advice and support centre for the homeless and asylum seekers: 01274 322400
- National domestic violence helpline: 0800 200 0247
- Lone parent support: 0808 802 0925
- NHS 111: telephone 111
- NSPCC: 01274 769800
- PALS: NHS patient advice and liaison service: 01274 364021 for Bradford Royal Infirmary or 01274 365853 for Airedale General Hospital
- Relate: relationship and individual counselling:
01274 726096
- Bradford Council's children's services: 01274 435600
- NHS search service: for help with finding a GP, dentist or hospital phone 111

We will continue to update parents and carers as frequently as possible. Thank you for your support and please look after yourselves in these difficult times.

Yours Sincerely,



Luke Weston (Headteacher)