

We are really pleased to be able to share with you our plans for your schooling for the rest of this term. You have been waiting very patiently for this information - *thank you*. Please read this through with your parents and carers and come back to Ms Trickey or Mr Capozzi with any questions. We have copied in your parents and carers so they can see what you have received and support.

Blatch is a special community and as a group year 10 have been fantastic - not just in this period of closure but throughout the year so we know together we can make this a very successful and safe return to the school site.

As you may know, we will be offering *academic mentoring* sessions to all year 10 students. These will be 40 min sessions with a teacher, on site, once per week, with other students. This closely follows the guidance all schools have received on how we are allowed to open up school in a way that continues to control the spread of Coronavirus and protect the most vulnerable in society, many of whom are friends, parents, grandparents and neighbours. Students, parents and carers can watch a helpful explanation of the decisions we have made around Year 10 students returning to school here: [Y10 academic mentoring videos](#).

Sessions will begin from Monday 15th June 2020, alongside other secondary schools across the country. It is worth pausing on this return to school. Each of you has made some large sacrifices in not attending school and working hard from home - you ought to be very proud of yourselves. You have done this to protect others and as your teachers we are certainly very proud to have responsible and hard working students in this year group.

We would dearly like to be able to return to normal school as quickly as possible, with all of our students together but for now we cannot. However you have been chosen to be the first secondary school age group to be allowed back for face-to-face time with your teachers. This is a great opportunity - one we are looking forward to - school is very odd without you. It is a chance to show what excellent leaders and role models you clearly are as we approach year 11. Younger students will be waiting at home to see how well this return for year 10 goes, with the hope that if it is successful we can build back to more normal schooling soon.

Your academic mentoring sessions:

These sessions will enable you to get the most out of your GCSE preparation at home. We will have to continue with home learning for some time and we know right now that year 10 will be sitting their exams as normal next year - so we need to help you to maximise what you can do at home, all of which is important. Choosing to do sessions like this will unlock and improve all the hours you spend at home.

In your sessions you will learn about study skills and effective learning; how to use the different feedback you have received; college and futures advice as well as mentoring to overcome difficulties you may have in particular subjects. As well as this your mentor will be checking on your wellbeing and encouraging you; helping you troubleshoot any problems you have and you will be able to spend time with a small group of fellow students. Above all, we will make sure routines are in place to keep you all safe.

We really **encourage you to attend these sessions** in order to have contact with teachers and fellow students to keep you motivated. You will have the same mentor each week - this will mean that, like a form tutor, they will get to know your achievements and challenges really well so they can support you to improve and work well online. This relationship will be valuable and help you to keep on top of your online learning, which will continue for at least the rest of term. We are here to help - please use us if you can.

Students have been provided details of their sessions via email on Thursday 9th June. Parents have been copied into these emails.

Food will be provided for all students in week 1 and you will be able to pre order food for the other weeks at the end of your session.

Please click this [sign up form](#) to confirm you will be attending and allow us to order food.

Arriving at school:

- Please check the site map [HERE](#) so you know exactly where your hub, room and entry point are.
- Try to make your way to school by walking or cycling, we have space to lock up bikes and as far as possible we should be trying to avoid using public transport. **Plan your journey, embrace a slightly longer walk.** There is some excellent advice here on pedestrian and cycle safety: [teenage-road-safety](#) and [guide-cycling-teenagers](#). If you have to take public transport please read this: [www.buses.co.uk/coronavirus](#)
- **The time slot above is fixed** and you will need to arrive on site 10 minutes before the start of the session. Please do not come into school from another entry point or in groups, you will be asked to walk back out and round to the other entrance so we can limit the number of students in any part of the building at one time. Once you enter school you will head to the **hand sanitation points**. From there you will be able to go straight to your zone to meet your mentor, who will be waiting for you. After the session is finished you will head straight off site. This calm, controlled approach will help us keep everyone safe and help you get the most out of your sessions.
- We have made you a face covering (explained here: [Using-face-coverings-an-explanation](#)). These have been made by brilliant school staff and local volunteers over the past few weeks. **This is yours to keep** and you can use it on public transport or in shops. In school, **you will need to wear this face covering when you walk around school and into your classroom.**
- We have high expectations of our students in school and in the wider community so **any student wishing to come into school must be following the latest government guidance [HERE](#)**. Parents and carers need to be able to trust that when they send their children into school that the other students are observing the rules around social distancing and gathering sizes. Equally, our staff, neighbours and our students will want to be sure that everyone in school is following the guidelines in place to keep us safe, especially those who may be vulnerable or living with those who are vulnerable. Therefore, **we cannot permit any students on site who we know are spending time in large groups** (currently more than 6) **or are not social distancing when they are not in school** (including evenings and weekends). Thankfully children are less likely to be seriously affected by Covid 19, but they are also more likely not to display symptoms so the precaution is a good one. Please note there will be no alternative on site schooling provided for any students not following the guidelines.

Preparing for the sessions:

There are a few things you need to do to be ready for your sessions.

1. Watch the introductory video from Mr Harrold here: [Y10 academic mentoring videos](#)
2. We need to adapt some of our routines and rules to keep everyone safe so we have made **changes to the school Behaviour Policy, which can be found here: [Behaviour Policy CV 19](#)**
A lot is staying the same but there are some important new steps and rules in place to keep all students, adults and families safe. These will make sense when you read them so we have sent them out in advance so you know what to expect when you come to school. This is a document that your parents/carers will want to read too.
3. **Think about your work to date and any areas you are finding hard.** Open up this document and make a copy of it in Google (File - make a copy) [Academic Mentoring - Week 1 personal reflection](#)
Fill it in so that you, your mentor and parents/carers can see where you feel you are succeeding and where you may need support. Once done please email it to your mentor (e.g. asurname@blatchingtonmil.org.uk) or print a copy to bring to your first session. You may find that discussing this with your parents and carers really helps and enables them to add their thoughts about what you are doing well and what you need to develop.
4. **Equipment:** Please remember to bring your own filled water bottle, we will not be able to use school fountains. Students also need to bring their own pencil case with equipment in it.
5. **Uniform: Students must wear your normal school uniform if you are coming in for academic mentoring.** We need uniform to be worn because with small numbers of students on site we need to be able to quickly visually identify you as Blatch students for safeguarding. This is the same for other schools. Our uniform is also inclusive and will help mentally prepare students for the return to the formal school setting. We would advise you to wash it once used for the day ready for the following week.

Thank you for reading this carefully. Will will send out further details to you via email. This will include an Academic Mentoring report in which you and your parents/carers can see how you are doing in general. This report will be shared with your mentor as well so they can help you even more in your sessions.

If you have any questions at all please get in touch: vtrickey@blatchingtonmil.org.uk / acapozzi@blatchingtonmill.org.uk

All the best,

Ms Trickey and Mr Capozzi