



## **Online working and arrangements for home learning:**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well at this difficult time. As we enter the Summer Term, I am writing to keep you up-to-date with what we are doing to support our students remain focused and keep learning at home.

Last term saw Burlington Danes Academy change from a bricks-and-mortar institution, as it has been since 1699, to an online learning hub for our community. **We're really proud of how families and teachers have been working together to make sure our children keep learning.**

Indeed, **children at BDA completed an astonishing 35,000 online Seneca sessions per week before the holiday.** This is the highest completion rate in the Ark network and places us 3rd out of 7874 schools in the country. Well done to our parents, students and staff for making sure we keep learning- we are keen to emulate this success again this term!

**Student wellbeing and safety, however, remain our main priority** and I have included some important information in this letter that will help you to promote this at home. We are also aware that adapting to the increased responsibility of managing their own time is challenging for young people. As such, I have also included a recommended daily schedule for students in KS3 and KS4 to support them to manage their time effectively.

**Teachers, tutors and our pastoral team will also continue to be in touch every week to ensure all students feel supported and motivated at this time.**

While working at home, **we recommend that students spend 20 hours each week on their studies.** This should be divided equally over the course of the week. Below are recommended schedules and learning activities for students in KS3 and KS4

**The amount of time it takes students to complete work varies**, so if your child finishes quicker than planned or would like to extend themselves, then Seneca and Hegarty have plenty of exercises students can use to study independently.

**The priority for all families is to stay well and healthy.** Your child's form tutor will be calling you once a week to update you on how your child is doing academically and to check on their wellbeing. Please let them know if you need more work for your child or if you're finding that there's too much work being set. We appreciate that in some cases it will be challenging for students to complete all the work being set - our form tutors will be passing your feedback on to our senior leaders and we will adjust the work being set accordingly. Home learning is a new experience for all of us, but by working together we can make sure our children are well-supported during this period.

Please also ensure that your child's form tutor knows if there are any issues accessing the online content. We know there is no substitute for learning in the classroom, but wherever we are, we will do everything we can to support you so your child can keep learning.

With best wishes,

Mr Bhatia and the BDA team



**KS3 recommended weekly schedule**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Maths	Science	Maths	Science	Maths
English	French	English	English	English
BREAK				
Geography	Music	Art	History	Drama
LUNCH				
Science	RE	PE	Maths	Science

Recommended learning activities:

Subject	Allocated learning time	Recommended activities
English	4 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seneca Learning</li> <li>Reading</li> <li>Extended writing tasks set on SMHW</li> </ul>
Mathematics	4 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hegarty</li> <li>Seneca</li> </ul>
Science	4 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seneca Learning</li> <li>Tasks set on SMHW</li> </ul>
RE	1 hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehension tasks set on SMHW</li> </ul>
History	1 hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehension tasks set on SMHW</li> <li>SMHW quizzes</li> </ul>
Geography	1 hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seneca Learning</li> <li>SMHW activities and quizzes</li> </ul>
French	1 hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seneca Learning</li> <li>SMHW quizzes</li> <li>Extended reading and writing tasks set on SMHW</li> </ul>
Art	1 hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehension tasks set on SHMW</li> <li>Creation of weekly piece as set on SMHW</li> </ul>
Music	1 hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theory work set on SMHW</li> <li>Work on practical tasks set on SMHW</li> </ul>
Drama	1 hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work set on SMHW</li> </ul>

**KS4 recommended weekly schedule:**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Maths	Science	Maths	Science	Maths
English	English	Science	English	English
BREAK				
Humanities: history or geography	French	RE	Humanities: history or geography	French
LUNCH				
Option subjects: Art, PE, Business Studies, Sociology, Photography, Media, Music, Drama, Economics	RE	Option subjects: Art, PE, Business Studies, Sociology, Photography, Media, Music, Drama, Economics	Option subjects: Art, PE, Business Studies, Sociology, Photography, Media, Music, Drama, Economics	Option subjects: Art, PE, Business Studies, Sociology, Photography, Media, Music, Drama, Economics



Recommended learning activities:

Subject	Allocated learning time	Recommended activities
English	4 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Seneca Learning tasks</li><li>Extended writing and reading work set on SMHW</li></ul>
Mathematics	3 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hegarty maths tasks</li><li>Seneca Learning</li></ul>
Science	3 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Seneca Learning</li><li>Written work set on SMHW</li></ul>
RE	2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Comprehension tasks on SMHW</li></ul>
History	2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Comprehension tasks set on SMHW</li><li>Quizzes on SMHW</li><li>Seneca Learning</li></ul>
Geography	2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Seneca Learning</li><li>Comprehension work and questions set on SMHW</li></ul>
French	2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Seneca Learning</li><li>SMHW quizzes</li><li>Extended reading and writing tasks set on SMHW</li></ul>
Options subjects (Economics, Business Studies, Photography, Art, Music, Drama, Sociology & Media Studies)	2 hours	A combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Seneca Learning</li><li>SMHW quizzes</li><li>Comprehension, reading and writing tasks on SMHW</li><li>Extended writing activities</li><li>Work on portfolio or extended projects/coursework</li></ul>

### Y12 recommended working hours and schedule:

- It is recommended that Y12 spend three hours each day completing the work set by their teachers.
- Those students studying for A-levels should divide their time equally between their subjects by studying for 1 hour on each subject every day.
- Students working towards their BTEC qualifications should complete three hours each day as directed by their teachers on Show my homework.
- Students in KS5 should continue to read widely both around their subject and for pleasure.

### How to support young people emotionally while quarantine measures are in place:

- It's ok to feel worried, disappointed, frustrated or low. Validate this, and normalise it by explaining that many people are feeling similar at the moment.
- Help your child to connect with others, including you. How can your child connect with their friends and other important adults that are important to them?
- Help your child to do things they enjoy, including those they are still able to do or those they used to enjoy when they were younger.
- Ensure they are able to exercise several times each week. This might be outside the home or using online videos such as Joe Wicks' PE lessons on Youtube.
- Help your child to think about their use of social media and the news. Is it helping or harming them? Would it help to try to limit their use to certain sites or certain times of day?
- Help your child to monitor their gaming. Are they playing for so long that they feel detached or that they are disrupting their usual sleeping or waking patterns?
- Ensure they are paying attention to their physical needs: sleeping, eating, hydrating, exercising and treating physical pain are all important elements of reducing our emotional vulnerability.



**How to support young people with their learning:**

- Help them to identify a suitable work space where they can work quietly. If space is limited, this might need some creativity or household rules for having quiet time during the day.
- Help your child to plan a structure for their day, including mealtimes, relaxation and time for exercise. We have included a recommended timetable for KS3 and KS4 students below.
- Help them to plan what they do with their technology. Can they keep their phone in a separate room during working time to avoid scrolling out of habit or being distracted by messages or the news?
- Acknowledge that with the closure of school and cancellation of public exams that some young people will be feeling discouraged or aimless. Others might be feeling relieved or carefree. If your child is finding it hard to focus on their school work, are there other interests or skills you can support them to develop? For example coding, graphic design and art, learning a new language or listening to an educational podcast.
- Show an interest in what your child has been studying and learning each day. Acknowledge and praise them when they have tried hard to be successful learners.
- Help your child link their learning to the real world. How can they apply what they have learned around the home?