



Ark Burlington Danes Academy

January Return to School

06.01.2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

You will have seen the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday night stating that schools will not be opening this term as we move into a period of lockdown. This is a deeply upsetting development for all of us – we want our children in school and learning. However, the safety and wellbeing of our community is paramount, and given the spread of the virus, such a decision was inevitable.

At Ark Burlington Danes Academy, we believe that a strong, academic education is crucial if our children are to live the lives they deserve. Our curriculum is designed to deliver this, and we have been hugely successful in getting excellent results for our students and sending them on to the best universities and destinations. This is our children's entitlement, and we will not let this pandemic take that away from them.

Over the coming months of lockdown, we intend to deliver our full academic curriculum to our students. All of our lessons will move online and will be delivered by our teachers via Microsoft Teams. Your child will be following the same timetable they would have followed in school, just online. The timings of the day are as follows:

8.30am:	Period 1
9.25am:	Period 2
10.20am:	Break
11.00am:	Period 3
11.55am:	Period 4
12.50pm:	Lunch
2.10pm:	Period 5
3.05pm:	Period 6 (for Years 10-13)

Wellbeing and Routine

As we learnt from the last lockdown, a sense of routine is critical in maintaining our wellbeing during this challenging time. Our children thrive on this – as do we!

This is why we are keeping to the timings of the school day. We will introduce weekly phone calls from form tutors next week to ensure we have regular 1-2-1 contact with all of our students and families, and to iron out any issues that may persist in accessing our lessons online and to check in on our students' wellbeing. Physical exercise is also very important, and our PE department will be setting online activities so our children can stay healthy at home. We have a dedicated webpage including useful links about wellbeing which is available [here](#).

However, for all our efforts, we are teaching remotely and we don't have our students in front of us, so it is really important that we work closely with our families to make this work. May I ask parents to do the following:

1. Keep a sense of routine by making sure your child is up bright and early in the morning, giving them enough time to mentally prepare for school
2. Ensure your child is logged on to their lessons at the right time
3. Support them in staying focused during their lessons
4. Check their work to see how they are learning
5. Give any feedback – both positive and negative – to your child's form tutor during the weekly call, so we can keep improving our provision

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Attached to this letter are a set of FAQs that I hope will answer the most pressing questions. I have also written to Year 11 and 13 students separately around the most recent announcements regarding the summer exam series. If there are any other questions, please address them to your child's form tutor, head of year or our administrative team and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

In these strange times, we are trying to educate our children in an entirely new way, and it is inevitable that there will be some challenges along the way. But I know that our entire community – parents, students and staff – are deeply committed to our children's education. We will be working together over the coming weeks to iron out any issues and make sure our children keep learning!

My best wishes to you and your families.

Keep safe.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Bhatia

Principal

Please see some answers to key questions below:

What is happening about remote learning?

We will be running a full timetable of lessons on Microsoft Teams from Wednesday 6th January. Students will have live lessons, led by specialist teaching staff, to ensure they are staying up to date with their learning. We were incredibly proud of the learning completed by students in the last lockdown and are certain that we will achieve even greater things with a full live timetable this time around. Please visit the dedicated webpage [here](#) for more information on these.

How can my child access lessons?

All students should have access to a device enabling them to access live lessons. If this is not the case, please get in touch with your child's form tutor or head of year so that we can ensure all students are able to access their full school timetable. Lessons will take place via Microsoft Teams. There is a video at the link above which explains exactly how students can access the lessons.

How do I know if my child has been attending?

As a school, we will be keeping registers for all online lessons, and following up via phone calls and emails as normal if there is unauthorised absence. You should please follow the normal reporting procedures if your child is unable to attend due to illness.

How will you be keeping in contact with students?

In addition to a full timetable of live lessons, form tutor and the pastoral team will be making frequent phone calls home to check in on students' wellbeing and to answer any questions from students and parents. Please note that, as teachers will be phoning from home, these phone calls will show up as "No Caller ID" on mobile phones.

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How will you be communicating with parents and carers?

Alongside the weekly phone calls mentioned above, we will be staying in regular contact via letters home. These will be sent electronically via text message. We will be keeping our website updated with all the latest information, and will also regularly update

What is happening for children of key workers?

We are running our Community Classroom provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable students. This begins from Wednesday 6th January, and students will follow their normal timetable via Teams lessons. We will be in further contact with the parents of those students who will be attending.

What is happening about FSM vouchers?

The school will be in contact shortly with families of those students who are eligible for Free School Meals.

What is happening about Year 11 and 13 exams?

There has not yet been confirmation about what will be happening with examinations this year, although we know they will not be going ahead 'as normal'. The Education Secretary is working with OFQUAL, the exam regulator, to put a firm plan in place. We will update you as soon as an announcement has been made.

What is happening with January BTEC exams?

BTEC exams scheduled for January are running as planned. Students will have the option of a rapid lateral flow test before taking the exam. Teachers of these students will be in contact in advance of the exam to run through the procedure.

Will there be a chance for students to come into school to pick up work?

We are conscious that a lot of students have left exercise books, booklets and other learning materials in school over the holidays. There will be an opportunity for students to come into school to pick up these resources, if they wish to do so. In addition, they will be able to pick up some blank exercise books to enable them to continue working if they finish their current books. The timetable for this is on the next page, and there will be a reminder sent out next week. Students should only arrive at the Wood Lane gate at the allotted time for their tutor group. We will be strictly observing social distancing and other COVID secure measures, and students will be overseen by a member of staff at all times.

Who should I be in touch with if I have questions or concerns?

In most cases, a student's form tutor or head of year should be the first port of call.

- If you have a pressing concern about a student's wellbeing, please contact safeguarding@burlingtondanes.org
- If you have a general query, or anything pertaining to Free School Meals, please email bda.school@burlingtondanes.org
- If you have questions regarding exams, please email our Vice Principal for Curriculum and Outcomes, Ms Morris, at laura.morris@burlingtondanes.org



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Rota for students to pick up exercise books and other equipment:

Date	Time	Tutor group
Monday 11 th January	13:30	11 Ephesians
	13:50	11 Galatians
	14:20	11 Colossians
	14:40	11 Corinthians
	15:00	11 Philippians
	15:20	11 Romans
	15:40	11 Titus
Tuesday 12 th January	13:30	10 Ephesians
	13:50	10 Galatians
	14:20	10 Colossians
	14:40	10 Corinthians
	15:00	10 Philippians
	15:20	10 Romans
	15:40	10 Titus
Wednesday 13 th January	13:30	9 Ephesians
	13:50	9 Galatians
	14:20	9 Colossians
	14:40	9 Corinthians
	15:00	9 Philippians
	15:20	9 Romans
	Thursday 14 th January	13:30
13:50		8 Galatians
14:20		8 Colossians
14:40		8 Corinthians
15:00		8 Philippians
15:20		8 Romans
Friday 15 th January		13:30
	13:50	7 Galatians
	14:20	7 Colossians
	14:40	7 Corinthians
	15:00	7 Philippians
	15:20	7 Romans

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