

Headteacher:  
Mrs A. Chapman, MA, SFHEA, NPQH



Founded in 1717

# BAINES SCHOOL

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20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is a general update about a number of things, I am hoping that on Friday, before we break up for half term that I will be in a position to share further guidance about the plan for re-opening to provide some face to face support for Year 10 students.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May is Bank Holiday Monday**, and we will be closed as a school.

We will re-open on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 8.35am for keyworker students who have no alternative provision or who cannot stay at home unsupervised and for those identified as vulnerable. As it is half term next week we will not be setting any new work during the week. This gives the students the opportunity to catch up on previous work set and to have fun family time. Staff will not be expected to respond to emails or provide feedback during this time, however many staff will be working hard either supervising in school or to plan and prepare future work, we will also be preparing the programme and provision, including risk assessments and guidance booklets for providing support in school for our Year 10 students for the future.

I am sorry that it is taking longer than I anticipated to give you the information about these plans but there are many government guidance documents to consider in the process as well as ascertaining the 'Baines' response. If the government plans go ahead and primary schools open on 1<sup>st</sup> June, this will significantly increase in the number of keyworker children in Baines School and we will need to settle in new systems for those before bringing in additional year 10 students as well.

Thank you to all those parents and carers who have completed our surveys to find out the number of keyworker children and the likely number of year 10 students who will attend when we implement our plan. The year 10 survey is open until midday on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May. If you have a year 10 child and have not yet completed the survey, please use this link: [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7RZ7CF9?fbclid=IwAR1hTzN2xmlLkGXwEjoYe0yUP2kFRokUcgRZbxr\\_KnQvZ831Rqq2fx8JUHQ](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7RZ7CF9?fbclid=IwAR1hTzN2xmlLkGXwEjoYe0yUP2kFRokUcgRZbxr_KnQvZ831Rqq2fx8JUHQ)

## Year 9 Options

In the week beginning 8th June, Mr McGrath will be writing to year 9 parents/carers via email with confirmation of your child's options. Mr McGrath has allocated first optional choices

where possible and has taken into consideration academic progress in a range of subjects, alongside teachers' feedback to make sure your children are doing the best subjects for them next year. It is very important that we ensure your child is on the right courses for them to be happy and achieve their full potential. You will also receive information about the school work for your child to complete during the last half term.

### **Year 11 ParentPay refunds**

A few of you have asked about ParentPay refunds. We are in the process of organising these. It is quite a complex process because we want to clearly explain your refund. For example, some accounts may require a refund for the year 11 geography trip that did not go ahead, but the child's lunch account may be showing a deficit, so we would need to pay the money owed in the food account from the geography account and then refund the final balance to parents /carers.

Mr Frith-Jones is working on this at the moment, however he has been delayed because he is also spending many hours working on processing the Free School Meal vouchers with the government agency Edenred (and believe me, some days he has been waiting on their online system for five hours!).

### **Free School Meals**

The distribution of vouchers from Edenred, has really taken off now. All families with children who are eligible for free school meals, should be receiving a £15 voucher each week. Any delays are due to the Edenred system, although I am hearing from families that they are regularly receiving the vouchers now on a weekly basis. Please inform the school if you have successfully applied for FSMs following a change in circumstance, so that we can update our system and organise the Edenred vouchers for you.

The government has announced that they will not be providing vouchers over the half term break. please be prepared for this, however the government may well change this decision, as they did previously. We will keep you informed of any changes to this.

### **Year 10 Government laptop scheme**

Students in Year 10 who did not have access to a laptop / iPad and were eligible for free school meals, at the time of ordering, have been put forward for a laptop to use. Again, we will let you know as soon as we find out anything about the laptops being delivered.

### **Year 11 setting of work**

The teachers of Year 11 have now been asked to point students in the direction of further revision resources, rather than to set any specific learning tasks. The purpose of this approach to make sure that all Year 11 students are able to continue to revise/refresh/relearn material for their qualifications, should they wish to sit examinations in the Autumn Term. This information will be provided via Google Classroom and/or Class Charts.

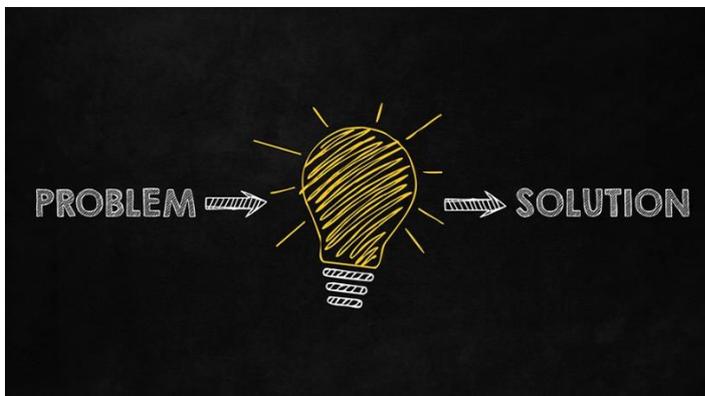


We are aware that some Post 16 providers are setting tasks and learning activities and would encourage all students to engage in those activities so that they are well prepared for starting the next chapter of their education.

### Online work setting for Years 7-10

Setting work and responding to students' needs continues to be a main focus for us, of course, and we will do our best to continue to refine this. We will put an Announcement on Class Charts later this week to survey how students feel they are getting on with the work and how we can do things better. Please encourage your child(ren) to complete this as it gives us a good overview. We will, of course, feedback the results to you after the half-term break.

All teachers appreciate that students work at very different rates (and that some students prioritise some subjects over other subjects) This means that teachers are, on the one hand, trying to respond to some students' needs who are doing everything they set whilst, on the other hand, some students may have been neglecting a subject for a week while they caught up in other areas. This means that, after eight weeks of Lockdown and a half-term still to go, for some students the amount of work on Google Classroom can seem overwhelming and some students don't know where to begin and this can lead to a further sense of feeling isolated.



There are things that you can do:

1. Remember that you probably wouldn't finish EVERYTHING in school so this is likely to be the same at home
2. Remember that you wouldn't get everything right in school so you shouldn't expect to when working remotely from home (new learning is tricky and your brain will work hard)
3. Contact your teacher and ask for help. Ask what you should prioritise. Or ask how to do something.
4. Reach out to other students to find out what they have done. Ask 'How are you doing in this?', 'I don't know how to find this' or 'Have you got anything that could help me



with...?' This may not always provide answers but it can often reduce a feeling of isolation, especially if other students say they are also finding it tricky!

5. Get reorganised: For some subjects where you are finding it difficult to keep up, plan a routine/schedule of when you'll concentrate on them.
6. Set a goal. By Friday I will have learned about... Think small steps to success
7. For subjects that you may have fallen behind in, make a list of what you have done and can do in each subject and make a fresh start after half-term.

### Transition for new Year 7 students

We are excited to begin working with our new Year 7s who start with us very soon! We have some more videos in the pipeline to help them to understand what Baines is like so they can start looking forward to joining us. We will share some ideas for work (after half-term) so that they enjoy a flavour of the variety of subjects they will be studying in September and beyond! Please keep an eye on the Transition page of our website; this will be under the Community heading.

We are not yet clear if we will be allowed to organise any transition visits to Baines School, but please be reassured we are very experienced at supporting all children. Some will come in groups from their primary schools, others will be on their own or in pairs. We have a lot of different feeder schools and every child is important to us, we are experienced at looking after them and helping them to settle in. We are really looking forward to meeting the newest members of our family.

Do you know a Year 6 child who is starting at Baines in September? If so, please politely ask the parent/carer if they have returned the forms to us so that we have their contact information. Thank you!

I hope the nice sunny weather returns for half term and that you all have some quality family time together. I really miss the students, it is the vibrancy of the people that make our school such a special place. I look forward to seeing you all soon, until then stay safe, happy and be kind to everyone, including yourselves.

With kind regards



Mrs Alison Chapman  
Headteacher

