



Building Inspiring Caring

To: Parents/Guardians of all enrolled students

Cc: Bursar

5th January Update

Due to recent decisions by the NI Executive we are now in an extended period of remote learning again from tomorrow. This is obviously a difficult time for many people and as a school we aim to do all we can to support our students and the wider BIC Community. The best way for this support to be of most value is to maintain good two-way contact between home and school and know how to address any issues that arise.

All remote learning will be in place through Google Classroom and your child should already have access to all of their classrooms and have experience of using this in school since September '20 at least.

Common problems:

I have forgotten my password – What do I do?

email: bicictdept@gmail.com identifying pupil's name and we can get back to you with access details. All student usernames for google classroom have to end with @c2ken.net

I cannot access my classes / I can't see any work for me / my child?

email: bicictdept@gmail.com identifying pupil's name and the classes that are missing. Using the pupil's school timetable will identify what classes may be missing.

I am finding the work too difficult / I don't know what to do?

Please use the comment section on the right hand side of Google Classroom to discuss the task with your teacher who will be able assist you with the task. We understand that some tasks may be difficult when working from home and always appreciate your best effort.

I have a pastoral concern and need to speak with someone?

email Mrs Millington on jmillington683@c2kni.net



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I am a parent and need advice on how to help my child to use Google Classroom / how to learn at home.

email info@blackwateric.downpatrick.ni.sch.uk with your query and we will have a member of staff contact you to assist in any way we can.

What is my child to expect as far as remote learning is concerned?

Remote learning will take a number of different forms. Face to face learning is obviously preferable but in the circumstances that is not possible.

There are different ways pupils will be asked to learn remotely. Google Classroom is the main area for remote learning and is for all subjects and year groups. There will be a range of different tasks online through this ranging from practical tasks that students can work on away from the computer to online tasks that may require research. Links to websites and video content may also be provided. Teachers will usually ask pupils to submit their work for assessment and feedback using Google Classroom and will be available for any queries or direction as stated above.

Occasionally, some lessons will be conducted on Google Meet connected to Google Classroom. There may be times when teachers use this method to get across particular messages or explain topics but all lessons will not be 'live streamed' as this means many students miss the set work if they are not available at these times to access the lesson. We will endeavour to make the content of work as varied as possible and allow for a range of different internet connectivity issues.

There will be work available for all of your child's subject areas at both KS3 and KS4 and we would recommend a varied approach taking in all subject areas as a normal teaching day would to avoid boredom and not to fall behind in any particular area. Your child should have 4 or 5 different subjects each day on their timetable and work will be posted on Google Classroom from 9am daily.



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If you are still having problems in accessing work or need to speak with a specific member of staff and cannot get in contact with them through Google Classroom then please email info@blackwateric.downpatrick.ni.sch.uk or contact us via private message on the school Facebook page and we will always try and get back as soon as possible.

We hope that this period of remote learning will not be extended any longer than necessary and we will have our students back to face to face learning as soon as possible but obviously we must adhere to all public health advice. This is a very difficult time for parents and also for us as teachers as unfortunately the leadership shown by the Executive has frequently been left wanting and the shifts in policy and direction changing on a daily basis with little or no warning.

If it takes us a few days to get things right with remote learning, please accept our apologies but with one day's warning it is very difficult to have things 100% correct for every student. The key to remote learning working is the combination of support from both home and school and we would urge all parents to promote a designated period of remote learning every day for your child and support them in their work. We will obviously be here to support by providing the work, feedback and direction and hopefully we can make the experience as stress free for all as possible.

In relation to our Year 12 students unfortunately we are still waiting on the Executive making a final decision as regards GCSE examinations next week. We will not be having catch up lessons on Thursday and Friday of this week as planned and we will be in touch as soon as we know what decisions have been made. Obviously Year 12 students should continue to access Google Classroom until we get greater clarity about what is happening.

We will endeavour to make this period of remote learning as smooth as possible but we also realise the challenges this presents for many families and students. To assist with this form tutors in Years 8-11 will be in touch with you in the next couple of days to check your child has access to Google Classroom and to see if there is anything we can help with.

I hope that you and your family stay safe at this time and if you require any assistance please contact us via the sources listed above.

Stephen Taylor

Principal

