

Our Ref: SLT/FSC-2302WSL

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have all had a lovely half term. Yesterday, Boris Johnson announced that schools would reopen from the 8<sup>th</sup> March. This is brilliant news, as all of us know that students should be in school to maximise their learning and happiness. We can't wait to be back open to all students and we are very happy that all students can return in the same week.

**We will write to you with details of how Baysgarth will reopen in the next week.** The headlines that came from yesterday's announcements are:

- Children need to be tested for Coronavirus using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) at school before they can return to normal lessons. This means we will have to have a staggered start over the first few days of term so that we can test everyone before they go back into classes. We'll let you know the details of this soon. We can only test our students once consent has been given by parents (or students themselves if they are aged 16). If you have not yet given consent, please complete the form by [clicking here](#). **Please ensure you complete a form giving consent for each individual child.** A polite reminder that students without consent to be tested will still need to self-isolate in the event of being identified as a close contact of a positive case.
- Students will be tested in school three times over the first fortnight and after that they will be issued with two testing kits each week for tests to be completed at home under parental supervision. More information on how parents can administer these tests will be provided later. I'm sure this will bring some anxiety to families as it did to us all at school when we started testing, but you soon get used to the testing process.
- Students and teachers should wear facemasks all the time they are inside the building until Easter to reduce the risk of transmission. We are not yet sure how this will work in classrooms and will clarify our view on this recommendation in due course.
- The Prime Minister has confirmed that after-school clubs can reopen and we will look to begin these as soon as possible, although we won't be operating late buses before Easter and will review at that time.
- Attendance at school is mandatory from the return to school on the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March and schools are encouraged to use fines and prosecutions in instances where students do not return to school.

We know that many of our students will feel anxious about the thought of returning to school after a long period of absence. As we watched the announcements last night as a family, one of my children was really excited to be returning and can't wait for the 8<sup>th</sup> March and the other was really anxious and talked about not wanting to go back. These are natural reactions and we have talked at length about the impact that the disruption of the last year has had on the mental health of our children. If you think that your child may have trouble coming back into school or seems to be particularly anxious, please get in touch with us via your child's Learning Manager ([all email addresses are on our website](#)) and we will do our best to support their return to school.

Now's the time to be checking school uniform and equipment, making sure that everything is ready for the return to school. Some of our students will have grown significantly since they last wore their uniform, so it's a good idea now to check that everything still fits and order more if it doesn't.

## Other News

### Year 11

The government and Ofqual had previously announced that they would let us know yesterday what the arrangements would be for assessing Year 11 in the summer. This didn't happen. The Education Secretary put out a notice saying this information would be released 'very soon'. As soon as we know what the arrangements are going to be, we will inform you and begin working with our Year 11 students on preparing for their last four months in school. In the meantime, our advice continues that the best thing Year 11 students can do is to ensure all the work set for them is completed to the highest standard to impress their teachers.

### Wellbeing

Thank you to all the parents and students who participated in our pastoral and wellbeing activities and workshops just before half term. These were really well received and our staff enjoyed them as well. Here's just one of the positive responses we received from a parent:

'Just wanted to pass on thanks for all the excellent communication and efforts and focus on children and young people's emotional and mental health. It's a topic I'm working with nearly daily in my job and I feel quite privileged my daughter attends this school. The workshops for parents and carers and resources available to us and students seems more readily available than in quite a few other schools I have worked with in Yorkshire and Lincs. Shouldn't be a postcode lottery or competing against others but you also deserve appreciation for your efforts. The next two days look great and well needed. Enjoy half term. Thank you.'

### Student Numbers

The Local Authority has confirmed that we will have 198 students joining us in September for our new Year 7 cohort. This is fantastic news, as we were told that Year 6 was a small year group and we should only expect 172 students. It's a testament to the growing popularity of the school and our reputation for providing excellent teaching and high-quality pastoral care, that more and more families want to join our Baysgarth community. We are now the second largest secondary school in the Local Authority and have grown by over one-third in the last five years.

### Chromebook Leasing

116 families have signed up to our Chromebook leasing scheme, which far exceeded our expectations. Chromebooks should be distributed to school either this week or next and then we will ensure they get to all the families that have signed up. By heavily subsidising these devices for our disadvantaged families, we are trying to ensure that every child who attends Baysgarth has access to a good quality computer at home to be able to complete all their work. We will run a second scheme in the summer term for any other families who wish to sign up and to give an opportunity for our new Year 7 families to access the Chromebooks.

### National Careers Week

Next week is National Careers Week, which offers guidance and free resources across the nation to support young people in their next steps beyond education. The programme is celebrating its 10th year and will be hosting various virtual events too. Our Employability Mentor, Miss Stuart, has put together some awesome resources and will be updating the dedicated Google Classroom every day next week. Students, along with parents and carers, can access this by [clicking here](#). You can also read more about National Careers Week [here](#).

### House Names Final Vote

Mr McNaught wrote to you all before half term asking you to vote for the final House names. The vote closes on Friday this week so this is your final chance to have your say. A reminder of the two options can be found overleaf:

### Option 1

During World War II, Lincolnshire was home to more airfields than any other county in England. It played a crucial role in protecting the lives of the British citizens and the allied forces. These are all aeroplanes that flew directly from local airbases and helped protect the local community.

- **STIRLING:** Short Stirling - RAF Elsham Wolds
- **HALIFAX:** Handley Page Halifax - RAF Elsham Wolds
- **LANCASTER:** Avro Lancaster - RAF North Killingholme; RAF Elsham Wolds
- **WELLINGTON:** Vickers Wellington - RAF Elsham Wolds; RAF North Coates
- **BLLENHEIM:** Bristol Blenheim - RAF Manby; RAF North Coates

### Option 2

All of the five of these names are surnames of significant people who had connections to Barton in the past. Each person that has been chosen has had a huge impact on society today and by naming our new Houses after them, we can be proud that they were all directly linked to Barton.

- **WILDERSPIN:** Samuel Wilderspin was a teacher, who first developed the school playground and new ways of teaching that still continue today.
- **PITMAN:** Sir Isaac Pitman was a resident and a teacher, who created the infamous Pitman Shorthand method; a system of rapid writing based on the sounds of words rather than on conventional spellings.
- **COURTNEY:** Janet E Courtney, born in Barton-upon-Humber, was a scholar, writer and feminist, who also helped edit the Encyclopedia Britannica.
- **LEWIS:** Ted Lewis was an author and resident of the town - his best-known work was adapted as the film 'Get Carter' in 1971.
- **VARAH:** Chad Varah was an Anglican priest and social activist born in Barton-upon-Humber; he founded the Samaritans, which is the world's first crisis hotline, to provide telephone support to those contemplating suicide.

[Click here to submit your vote](#) before **Friday 26th February!**

### Staffing

Our new Science Academic Mentor, Katy Hewis, has started with us at Baysgarth this week. Katy will be working with those students who we feel will benefit from one-to-one and small group interventions in Science to boost their knowledge and ensure they are on track to achieve their potential in this core subject. This week, we also welcome Louise Carter as a new Learning Support Assistant within the Personalised Learning team to support our students with additional needs.

We will be writing to you again soon as more details emerge of the plans for reopening schools. It's exciting to finally feel that we might soon be getting back to normal and I can't wait for us to be open to all students once again.

Take care and thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Richard Briggs  
Head Teacher