

Our Ref: SLT/FSC-2901WSL

Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This week has brought highs and lows in school. The news that the reopening of schools has been delayed has been a blow to us. We know that students need to be in school, and this week has shown for some students just how much mental health can suffer at this time. Our disappointment that we will not be able to welcome everyone back after half term must be balanced with the fact that we want all students and their families to be safe.

This week has seen an unprecedented surge in requests for school places from critical workers. The numbers we have in school now are at a critical point for health and safety. Social distancing is a great challenge within education provisions and the numbers presenting in school at the moment are affecting the capacity within our staff to provide live lessons and remote learning to the standard we are currently doing. The model of teaching we have implemented has been predicated on the number of key worker parents who registered on the original survey, which was first emailed on December 17th 2020. This allowed us to predict numbers and plan a staff and curriculum model most effective for every student. Unfortunately, due to the increase in numbers that has happened over the last month, we find ourselves in a position where we can no longer accommodate key worker student requests from today. The small capacity we do have in school will be reserved for vulnerable students and their families.

We appreciate that this causes difficulties for some families and where there are motivation, engagement or mental health issues, there is a team of staff based in school who work remotely with families and students. Our support is still here.

Celebrations

This week has marked our fourth week of remote learning, and as the staff have taken stock, we have been amazed at some of the quality and effort our students are putting in. As staff, we are very proud of the fact that, despite these difficult circumstances, the majority of our students are displaying the Baysgarth core values and producing some superb work.

Every faculty has been asked to nominate their remote learning stars from the students working within the school and working at home. 122 students have been chosen by the staff, which is a staggering number. Every student will be receiving a postcard home from the Senior Leadership Team to recognise this achievement next week, but special comment must be given to:

- Symone Chand who received **four** nominations: Maths, Science, Hair & Beauty and MFL.
- Neve Fox and Lexi Hewitt who made amazing Earth models.
- Adyssen Barden who developed a working model of a human joint, actually moving!
- Ben Carnaby who has completed all the extension work and received the highest mark for his Maths test.
- Michael Whinship, whose Gateway project on droughts was exceptional.
- Kaylob Dixon, who is still cooking at home for his family and his videos could be used to teach others!
- Charlie Rose Anderson, whose attitude and resilience has led to some excellent coursework produced.

We congratulate every student for their hard work at this time and offer a reminder that House points are still being rewarded, so the House Cup is still to win!

Remote Learning Update

This week has started the monitoring engagement strategy. Our expectation is for every student to engage with their learning and to be proactive in communicating with staff if they need support. However, we know that there could be many reasons why a student or their families are finding this difficult at the moment.

The pastoral staff will now be contacting students regarding missing work or if they fail to login to the Google Classrooms, to ensure that, as a school, we offer the right support to students. We also know from speaking with students that they sometimes don't know who to reach out to if they are having a difficult time. To support this, we have developed an online request service, where students can request contact from a pastoral member of staff within 24 hours. This should be used for general anxiety and wellbeing issues and if there are specific subject issues, class teachers are still the best source of support.

The Pastoral Support Form can be accessed [here](#).

Covid-19 Winter Grant Funding

We would like to remind parents and carers about the Winter Grant Funding, which provides extra support for families who need additional assistance. The team running the grant through Citizen's Advice on behalf of North Lincolnshire Council, have already provided assistance in the region of £33,000 to families since its launch in December. There has been an increase in families who are self-employed and may not qualify for Free School Meals etc, accessing this support, so we urge all families to utilise this service, irrespective of circumstances if you need support.

Funding provided so far has supported families with food, utility bills, white goods, clothing and bedding.

To access the support, it is a very short online form and once completed, families are reminded that they will receive a call back to confirm their needs. We have had a number of parents that have not answered their call back and thus may be missing out. The link is on our website, which [you can find here](#).

Free School Meals for Half Term

North Lincolnshire Council will be providing FSM vouchers over the half term break for eligible families. These will not be distributed via the school and will come directly from the Local Authority. Some families will have these vouchers hand delivered and the rest will be posted out in the week before half term directly to home addresses.

Positive Feedback

Finally, as always, we are so heartened to receive positive feedback from parents and despite the restrictions on how we can work, there is still some wonderful work being done by the pastoral staff:

"I have no idea what magic the school is using, but I just want to say that we appear to have a changed teenager on our hands. You are all doing a marvellous job in some very challenging circumstances, which I and am sure lots of parents appreciate. Thanks to all staff for keeping the school open and the support you are giving to the pupils that struggle with the online/working at home challenges".

I would like to celebrate this group of my staff who are truly amazing at caring for every one of your children and going above and beyond to support them at this time. They are a credit to the school and are continuing to make a huge difference in so many students' lives.

Take care, have a good weekend and as always, thank you for your continued support!

Yours faithfully



Miss J Driscoll
Deputy Head Teacher

