

# Blessed George Napier Catholic School and Sixth Form

A Youth Sport Trust Lead School for Leadership, Coaching and Volunteering

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Compassion

Respect

Truth

Service

Forgiveness



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Dear Parent/Guardian

## Blended Learning

We will publish our remote teaching policy on our website soon but, in the meantime, I would like to briefly explain our rationale for a blended learning approach.

There is a growing consensus that the most important thing about remote learning is the quality of the lesson, rather than the mode of delivery. We are lucky enough to have an excellent VLE [Virtual Learning Platform] at BGN which has been specifically designed to support a blended learning approach.

All students will receive a mix of live interactive lessons and other lessons will involve a variety of learning activities and delivery methods. This could be a narrated PowerPoint, some reading from a textbook or an e-learning activity such as MyMaths. When content is shared in lessons where a teacher is not presenting live, the teacher will be available on the VLE message system to answer questions and they may also run a 'live' chat for the class through the new chat room function on the VLE.

Our aim is to ensure that we make the best use of technology and of teacher time and that we ensure that when live interactive lessons are delivered, they are valuable to our students and offer something additional. There is a danger that if all lessons involve the teacher delivering over Teams or a similar method, students may find the pace does not suit them, the teacher cannot judge how all learners are responding and students may just become passive observers of the lesson, rather than active participants. Our aim is to utilise technology, together with live teacher online support to promote independent learning and to give students more control over their work. An added benefit of this delivery method is it alleviates some issues for families where access to sufficient devices could be difficult on occasions, especially when parents are also working from home.

Continued...2

Principal: **Ms Niamh Dolan, BSc (Hons)** [headteacher@bgn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@bgn.oxon.sch.uk)

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"The school's contribution to pupils' personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is exemplary. Pupils go out of their way to do good things. They act as positive role models for younger children." *Ofsted, June 2017*

To reiterate, blended learning allows:

- The curriculum to be well-planned with a variety of activities and tasks chosen to meet the learning objectives
- Teachers and students to meet in 'live' lessons on a rota basis where feedback and dialogue are the main focus
- Students to develop independent learning skills
- Teachers to support students remotely through a message system enabling students to receive individual support
- Students to work at their own pace

What can I do to support my child's remote learning?

- Please ensure students are up, dressed and have had breakfast before school starts at 9 am
- Please follow the new timings of the school day and ensure that your child completes the work for each lesson at the time on their timetable
- Please check-in with your child and ask to see the work they have completed each day
- Encourage your child to message their teacher during lesson time, even just to say hello. The more students can communicate with their teacher, the better
- Discuss how your child will use their lunch break in a positive way. They should have a proper break away from screens
- Home learning does not have to end at 3 pm. Every moment of private study that is used to check learning is invaluable. However, it is also important to ensure that your child balances their workload and takes sufficient breaks
- Encourage them to read. Research shows that reading greatly improves students' vocabulary and attainment
- Ensure your child gets a good night's sleep – ideally switching off devices and leaving them in a different room to charge overnight

How can I contact the school?

- Reception is staffed during current school hours. Please contact us if you require any help for your child on telephone 01295 264216/email office.4600@bgn.oxon.sch.uk
- If you wish to speak with a teacher or any member of staff, please telephone or email us. Teachers are working remotely and will return calls to parents in the normal way
- Students can also message their teachers directly through the VLE during their lesson. This is the case, even if it is not being delivered as a live lesson. The teacher will be available online to answer questions

Please be assured we will continue to support you as much as possible.

Yours sincerely



Niamh Dolan  
Principal

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