

Blessed George Napier Catholic School and Sixth Form

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

Addison Road, Banbury

Oxfordshire

OX16 9DG

Tel: 01295 264216

www.bgn.oxon.sch.uk

Compassion

Respect

Truth

Service

Forgiveness



8 January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Coronavirus

I know students and parents will be very anxious about the current situation, particularly those who are in Years 11 and 13, so I just wanted to give you an update, based on the information we have available at the current time.

The level of virus transmission in the Banbury area is particularly high at the present time, well above the national level for England. Therefore, we must all remain vigilant and stay at home as much as possible. We fully appreciate the importance of face-to-face teaching in school and we hope we can return to this as soon as possible.

Can I still contact school?

Reception is staffed during current school hours. Please contact us if you require any help for your child. However, please remember no visitors are allowed on site due to Covid-19 restrictions. If you wish to speak with a teacher or any member of staff, please telephone on 01295 264216. 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 online to answer questions.

How will my child's education be managed during a prolonged school closure?

Students are expected to log-on to the VLE every morning at 9 am for their lessons: <https://bgn.myvle.co.uk/login/>. Students will follow their normal timetable each day. If there are any problems accessing work, again please contact the school as soon as possible. If your child tells you that work has not been set, or if you believe that they do not have enough work, then please do call us.

This week, we have prioritised live lessons for Years 11 and 13, being the exam years, and next week we have asked teachers to include some live lessons for Year 12 as well.

Continued...2

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

An academy within The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company which is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity registered in England and Wales with company number 9113542 and registered address Addison Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9DG.

"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*

Moving forward, we will be introducing a blended learning approach which will involve all students receiving some lessons through the homework function, and some lessons live on MLTV. More information about this will be sent to you shortly from your child's Head of Year.

We have also taken the decision to alter the timings of the school day. This means staff and students can have a break in the middle of the day. We hope this will allow students some time for their daily exercise when it is light. The details of the new timetable are as follows, and will commence from next week:

School Day	Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday	Wednesday
Tutor time	9-9.20 am	9-9.20 am
Period 1	9.20-10.20 am	9.20-10.15 am
Break	10.20-10.50 am	10.15-10.30 am
Period 2	10.50-11.50 am	10.30-11.25 am
Lunch	11.50-1 pm	11.25-12.30 pm
Period 3	1-2 pm	12.30-1.25 pm
Period 4	2-3 pm	1.25-2.20 pm

What is going to happen about GCSE and A Level exams?

We realise that Year 11 and Year 13 students and their parents will be especially anxious. We will keep you updated as the situation becomes clearer. The most recent statement from Ofqual, the Exams Regulator, published on 6 January, states:

“Our message to students is this: please continue to engage as fully as you can in your education. That will be online for the majority of students. This will put you in the best position, whatever arrangements are made for your qualifications. It’s important that teachers and students can focus on the knowledge and skills needed to equip students to progress to the next stage, whatever form that might take – whether to college, an apprenticeship, university or employment.”

Students should continue to follow the advice of their teachers and trust them to do all that is needed to support them. It is important they continue to work hard whilst we await further information about how grades will be awarded. We will update you on developments as and when we have further details.

Continued...3

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

An academy within The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company which is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity registered in England and Wales with company number 9113542 and registered address Addison Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9DG.

“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**

Page 3
8 January 2021

As you are probably aware, we have been asked to set-up and operate a Mass Testing programme for staff and students. I am sure parents will understand that this is a clinical operation which is outside the experience of staff in schools. However, we are very conscious of the importance of this testing for the community and will do our absolute best to rise to the challenge. We are currently working with Public Health England in Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire County Council Education Team to explore how mass testing can be moved forward in school. The situation is changing rapidly, and we will follow advice and take whatever actions are necessary to protect our community.

None of us expected to still be in this position at the start of 2021, but I can assure you we will do everything we can to support you and your child to get through this ongoing crisis. All our teachers have the best interests of our students uppermost in their minds.

We continue to pray for all our staff, students and their families and especially for all those who are currently unwell.

Yours sincerely



Niamh Dolan
Principal

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

An academy within The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company which is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity registered in England and Wales with company number 9113542 and registered address Addison Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9DG.

“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*