

## Bulletin for BSF Students, Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of a very challenging week, we hope that you and your families are safe and well. We have seen students adjusting to the demands of remote learning this week and there have been some superb examples of independent work shared. We will keep in regular contact with you over this time and our aim is to stay connected as much as possible and to keep you updated as the situation develops, particularly in relation to the arrangements for grading students who are expecting results this summer.

### Update on 2020 Exams

The Government issued a further update on 26 March 2020 about arrangements for awarding A Levels for this summer. This reads as follows:

*'Students understandably want reassurance, and teachers urgently need to know what to do, and when. We expect to publish detailed information about the process and timetable which will apply this summer next week. This will include the steps we would like teachers to follow and more detailed guidance on how to consider the full range of evidence they will have available when submitting their assessment grades. We are talking to teaching representatives to make sure that what we are planning is manageable and appropriate, so that students, parents, carers and teachers can have confidence in the approach.'*

*We will outline by Easter the process we will follow to make sure grades are fair across schools and colleges, as well as our proposals for appeals. We will also say more as soon as possible about the arrangements for additional exams in the new academic year.*

*We want to reassure students waiting for news that we are doing everything we can to make sure they are not disadvantaged by these unprecedented circumstances.'*

Once we receive further guidance, we will put arrangements in place to ensure that these are followed fully. We expect to receive information about vocational courses at the same time. This has been a time of great uncertainty for students affected, and it is understandable that you are concerned about what the process will involve, but we will keep you as up-to-date as possible with the news.

### Careers Information and Advice

Providing information and support about careers and university applications continues to be very important during this period of remote learning. We continue to be supported by Directions for independent careers advice and are putting together some programmes and resources for both Years 12 and 13 to use should we be unable to return to the sixth form after the Easter break. Further information and details about this will follow in the bulletin next week. Any Year 13 students who feel they would now like to make a UCAS application should contact Mr Bridgwater via email ([neil.bridgwater@braintreesixthform.com](mailto:neil.bridgwater@braintreesixthform.com)).

This is the latest update from UCAS about offers. Please be aware of the revised deadlines:

*'Normally most students would have until early May to make decisions on their offers, but in line with the Government announcement this deadline will be extended by two weeks.'*

*Universities and colleges will also have additional time to assess applications and adjust their processes in these unprecedented times.*

*We will email students this week with information on their new May decision deadline, and ensure they understand they have additional time over the coming weeks to make their decisions.*

*This will give students, teachers, universities, and colleges time to reflect on their decisions and allow for further information on calculated grades and qualification awarding, such as A levels, BTECs, and the International Baccalaureate to be shared.*

*It's important that students and teachers understand that we expect the admissions cycle to run broadly similar to previous years, with the flexibility for applicants to make choices throughout the rest of the year and a Clearing process over the summer.'*

## **Year 12 Remote Learning**

It has been excellent to see many students embrace home learning this week. This is a new way of working for all of us so please bear with us if there are teething troubles as we adjust to the new arrangements. If you have queries or questions about the work set, or struggling to complete it in any way, please do contact your teacher via Edulink/email. Teachers are not always able to mark the work itself, but will be providing feedback electronically. If you have broader questions or concerns, please contact Mrs Brewis-Shephard or Mrs Townsend.

Please also make sure that you mark work 'Done' when you have completed tasks - this way, we can be sure that you have engaged with the work.

Maya Angelou once said “ *You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them*”. A great message to see us into the weekend, and we will be in touch next week.

Mrs M Townsend

Assistant Headteacher – KS5