



Weekly Student Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students Friday 2 October 2020

Dear Students

Not surprisingly, several of you have expressed concerns and raised queries over the past couple of weeks about the exams this summer, and whether or not they will be going ahead. As soon as any decision is made by the Government or Ofqual which could affect the exams in any way, we will of course let you and your parents or carers know as soon as possible. This might include adapted papers or specifications, but we don't know yet what the final plans are as nothing has been confirmed. In the light of this, we think that the best advice is to avoid speculation for the present: make sure you are reviewing your work regularly, take steps to address any gaps in your knowledge or understanding and continue to work with motivation.

Students met earlier this week following discussions in Personal Development sessions about diversity. Please see below for a message from Mr Nitsche and Mrs Brewis-Shephard, who very much enjoyed their initial discussions this week.

Thank you for all the support in ensuring that the new measures and precautions taken in school are followed. These are being further strengthened next week and we thank you for your continued support with this.

Covid-19 – 'What to do if' flowchart

The 'what to do if' flowchart has been updated to provide greater clarity on the guidance if you, someone in your household or a close contact has a positive test for Covid. Please familiarise yourself with the contents and have a look at the definition of a 'close contact' in particular.

Face coverings

A reminder that from Monday, 5 October 2020, all staff and students are expected to wear face coverings in corridors, unless there is a specific medical reason or disability. If you are not able to wear a face covering, please email caroline.watson@braintreesixthform.com.

Face coverings are also advised in outdoor areas if social distancing expectations cannot be followed. When using areas such as the library, common room or Café 6, you do not need to wear a face covering when seated and studying/eating/drinking, but you should do so when standing up and moving around the area.

Message from Mr Nitsche and Mrs Brewis-Shephard

An invitation to join the Sixth Form Diversity Group, which this month is focusing on Black History Month and racism.

We are holding a meeting on Wednesday lunchtime in BSF Room 229 at 12.30pm to discuss how the group would like to move forward and any issues that you may wish to discuss. Please join us if you are interested, even in just having a one-off chat about what we are planning to do. You are encouraged to bring your lunch and work together in discussing diversity both in our community and globally.

Wear Red Day 2020

Show Racism the Red Card is holding its annual Wear Red Day on Friday 16 October 2020. We encourage you to wear something red and donate £1 to help fund anti-racism education for young people and adults across the UK on this day. Wristbands will also be available to buy for £1 from the student office.

Nitrous Oxide (also known as 'laughing gas', or 'balloons' / 'nos')

We have been made aware through county safeguarding advice that recreational use of nitrous oxide increased during the national lockdown period and has been associated with anti-social behaviour in Essex, for example during raves and other large gatherings – with potential links to exploitation of young people around the supply of this and other substances. Young people are also at risk from health issues if they use nitrous oxide; it can affect a person's judgement and make them more vulnerable to potential abuse. We would advise anyone experiencing issues to do with nitrous oxide or any other substances to seek support via GP and local NHS services. More information about local services available and facts about nitrous oxide can be found here: <https://www.talktofrank.com/get-help/find-support-near-you>

Feedback from Student Council Meeting

Thanks to Cobi for feeding back on Tuesday at the Student Council meeting with catering staff. Summary below:

Opening times for Café6 are 8:15am - 9:15am and then re-opening from 11am - 1:45pm. The extension from 1.10pm to 1.45pm has been agreed as a trial.

You can order a jacket potato for lunch every morning 8:15am - 9:15am. Fillings available are cheese, beans and tuna.

Water bottles will continue to be filled up at the counter during opening times by catering staff and we encourage you to fill water bottles during those times. If you need water outside of opening hours, Mrs Watson can re-fill bottles for you.

If you think you were incorrectly charged for cutlery when you have bought food or drink from Café6, you can request a refund via Mrs Watson. The metal school cutlery cannot be used at the moment, so please bring cutlery with you if you are bringing food from home.

The catering staff are updating the menu and will review this regularly, so if there is anything that you would like to see (within reason!) on the menu, report to your Student Council rep for your tutor group and this will be discussed in future meetings.

Useful websites – LGBTQ+

At the end of Mrs Brewis-Shephard's assembly earlier this week, she mentioned a number of organisations and websites for students seeking information, support or advice on LGBTQ+ matters. These are:

Outhouse East (Essex based) Outhouseeast.org.uk

Consortium.lgbt

Thebeyouproject.co.uk

Stonewall.org

Youngstonewall.org.uk

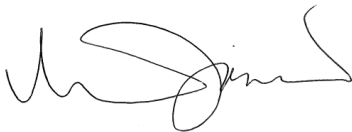
Theproudtrust.org

Thetrevorproject.org

LGBT Foundation

Enjoy a great weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Townsend', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs M Townsend
Head of Sixth Form
Assistant Headteacher – KS5

Flowchart for parents: what to do if someone in your household has symptoms of COVID-19

