

19th March 2020

Dear Barney Parents and Guardians,

First and foremost, please let me reassure you that your child's Barney education will continue whether they are physically at school or not. My thanks to all those key workers who responded to my email last night. We will be in touch with you shortly to confirm arrangements.

Although the announcement by the Government yesterday is a serious escalation in the fight against the global COVID-19 pandemic and will have come as a shock to many people, we have been planning for this eventuality for a number of weeks. Through the use of Microsoft Teams, an application in our Microsoft Office 365 package which every child has access to, we are ready to launch a Remote Learning Programme.

Remote Teaching and Learning Programme

The Remote Learning Programme (RTLP) is designed to make learning from home as easy and effective as possible. We recognise the need for a clear and accessible approach for both the Prep School and the Senior School, and thus, the strategy for delivery has been differentiated. In the Prep School, teachers will communicate with pupils via email. In the Senior School, teachers will communicate via Microsoft Teams (and email as required).

Microsoft Teams is an existing School platform and many classes have been using Teams to deliver lesson content since the start of the academic year. For some, it may seem daunting, but it really is as simple as opening up an app on their phone, or accessing Microsoft Teams with the same login they use for their school email. If pupils are unsure or have questions, they can email their classroom teacher or Tutor. **Precise details of the programme are contained within the letters attached from Mrs Turner (Prep School) and Dr Truss (Senior School).** Pupils in both schools have received instructions on how to access and use these programmes.

At Barney, we believe a child's education goes beyond the classroom. We know that this will be a testing time for our pupils. We would like to reassure you that we will continue to support your child's development through our existing pastoral structures. To this end, I also attach **a letter from Mr Lavery** outlining our responsibility regarding continuous pastoral care.

What we expect from pupils

From Monday 23rd March until the official end of Lent Term on Friday 27th March they may be at home, but they are still in education. They should be up, dressed, ready to work for 9am. Their official Easter holiday begins at 5pm on Friday 27th March. We have a whole week of school before then.

What parents can do to help

Please remain calm and measured. The example you set in helping establish a routine for your children at home will have a profound impact. Where possible, please provide them with a quiet place to work that limits distraction. Encourage a scheduled approach throughout the day, which includes downtime and exercise. Should you have any questions about academic work, please contact their class teacher in Prep School or their subject teacher in Senior School. If you require further support in Senior School please contact your child's Tutor and HSM.

Exams

The Government statement is that exams will not take place in May and June. We are awaiting confirmation about the details and wider implications. Until then, we advise all GCSE and A Level students to continue to work remotely from home and teachers will be setting work in the usual way. As soon as we know more about the status of exams, we will update you and the students. We videoed the assembly I delivered to Year 11 and 13 students this morning to share with those who are not in school currently. I include a link to this video below and whilst it is exam group focused, I hope it gives you an idea of our approach and the messages we are delivering to our children.

<https://youtu.be/YeNSAqgpdek>

It is in times like these that we learn the true meaning of the word character. If nothing else, I am confident that as a consequence of this situation, with our and your support, your children will be better equipped for the trials and tribulations on the bumpy road that lies ahead in their lives.

Our community is our strength. Our message to pupils, whether online or face to face, continues to be one of calm reassurance, resilience and positivity.

Yours,

Tony

Attachments:

- Letter from the Prep School Headmistress about the Prep School RTLP and ongoing pastoral care
- Letter from the Senior School Deputy Head Academic about the Senior School RTLP
- Senior School Prep Timetable
- Letter from the Senior School Deputy Head Pastoral about ongoing pastoral care