



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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5th February 2021

'Catch Up Day' - Friday 12th February

Dear Parents/Carers,

I must start by congratulating all members of the school community on their efforts with remote learning. I know that this presents many challenges for pupils, staff and parents/carers and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for all their hard work. The levels of engagement with work across the school have been truly impressive.

Feedback from pupils and staff is that it can be hard to keep on top of the workload as a result of remote education and of course we know that long days in front of a screen can be exhausting. In response to this feedback we will be using Friday February 12th as a 'Catch Up Day'. This will give pupils time to ensure that they are up to date with their work and to get organised ready for next half term. It will also give staff a much needed opportunity to assess and evaluate pupils' work and progress over the term so far. The arrangements for the day for pupils will be as follows:

Morning

- There will be no 'live' lessons or subject work for morning lessons.
- Pupils are expected to use the time to
 - catch up with work missed in any subject
 - finish off any important outstanding assessments
 - organise their work, including folder management on their Google Drive
- Pupils need to prioritise their work, and this will very much depend on their individual circumstances. Where staff are aware of significant work missed they will suggest tasks for pupils to work on
- Pupils requiring any guidance about work that needs completing should have already been provided - they should communicate with staff before Friday if they need any clarification
- 6th Form lessons may take place at the teacher's discretion, otherwise the above applies - teaching staff will inform their own groups as to their arrangements

Afternoon

- This will be another 'screen-free' afternoon for Years 7-11; there will be no live lessons

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



- Staff may set subject screen-free activities, otherwise pupils can pick from the range of suggestions previously sent out (also attached at the end of this letter)
- 6th Form classes will be set work to do - this may not involve 'live' teaching and staff will communicate with their groups regarding specific arrangements. Teaching staff delivering Friday afternoon lessons will make themselves available for at least part of the lesson for questions if needed

Pupils in school on Friday 12th February

As there will be no live lessons on the day, pupils who normally attend school may prefer to work from home for either the whole day, or to go home at lunchtime. We will be writing to the parents/carers affected separately about this.

My hope is that the timing of this day will reduce the need for staff and pupils to work over half term. It is important for us all to have a good break and rest. I am afraid that I have no further information about the timing of a wider re-opening of schools after half term. We know that this will not happen before 8th March, but as yet it is unclear whether any return will be for all year groups. I will of course write to you as soon as I know more.

Finally, a plea on behalf of our staff. We are working very hard to engage our pupils through setting up 'live' Google Meets or Zooms where pupils are encouraged to speak and participate and/or post comments. These range from form time activities to subject discussions. We are finding that many pupils are reluctant to join in with these activities and understandably staff are left with the impression that pupils are not interested in participating, despite their best efforts to encourage them. It would be very much appreciated if you could encourage your child to get involved with these activities: to turn on their mic and join in with a Meet, to post a comment or suggestion, or even just to say hello to their form tutor in registration and answer their questions. It is good for pupil wellbeing as well as their learning to stay connected as much as possible and this is just one way of doing that.

Thank you as ever for your support and encouragement. I very much appreciate the time and effort parents/carers are putting in to supporting their children and the school at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood
Headteacher

Ideas for Screen-free Activities

Read a book - either fiction or non-fiction - or listen to an audio book	Hand write a review of a book you really enjoy
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Write and send a letter to someone you haven't been able to see for a while	Write and send a letter to someone (or a group of people) you think deserve a thank you (e.g. local care home staff, your nearest NHS hospital etc)
Do a puzzle	Cook or bake
Ask your parents if you can do any chores around the house	Play a board game or cards
Do some craft or painting, e.g. create a junk sculpture using your recycling	Draw an alternative book cover for a current book you are reading
Do some yoga or meditation exercise	Mindful colouring
Any of the activities from the virtual sports day	Take some exercise (outdoors if you can)
Invent something	Listen to BBC sounds - Desert Island Discs has lots of interesting people
Take part in RSPB garden watch and have a trial run to count the birds you see in your garden. https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/	Build a structure that supports an egg 20cm in the air using only drinking straws
Do some gardening	Draw a portrait of someone you love (human or otherwise)
Listen to some music.	If you have a musical instrument, play it.
Go for a walk in your local area. While on your walk you could: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Try to spot the oldest and newest buildings - Find a flower in bloom - Find the tallest building - Find evidence spring is on its way, for example by seeing green shoots - Count your steps in German/French/Spanish - Collect items to inspire some Art or poetry - Take photos of shapes that spell out the alphabet 	

