



# BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

*Week ending Thursday 2 April 2020  
From Jonathan Maddox, Headteacher*

## EXCEPTIONAL TIMES

Today is the last day of Term 4. Term 5 should start on Monday 20 April but it is difficult at the moment to have much confidence that students and staff will indeed return to School then. The continuous news coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic makes sobering viewing, listening and reading. In one report we are told that many of us might already have been infected yet have little or no symptoms; in the next we read of apparently healthy people in the prime of their lives struck down in no time.

As I write it is clear that the areas served by our School are not, at least not yet, experiencing the horrors that the virus can bring to communities when it reaches them. It is to be hoped, with the lock-down now firmly in place, that we might to some extent - I hope entirely - be spared. I hope and expect that all students are respecting the very clear and compulsory requirements of the lock-down. I know how difficult it can be to believe that there is a serious, potentially deadly threat not far away when the weather is so gorgeous and all seems well, but students must remain at home whilst the situation persists and follow the advice which none can miss. It is obvious that the imminent Easter Holiday period will be even more difficult for students and families than have been the days since the School closed, as students have to now had regular School work to keep them occupied. For the next fortnight students will need, as must we all, to muster a high level of self-control.

The School is doing its bit to provide supervision for the children of parents who are amongst our valued Critical Workers. Student numbers for this are not great but they are not likely to be in a school of our character containing secondary-aged children. The supervision programme continues for these students over the Easter holiday. Elsewhere in this issue you can read how our Design Technology staff have manufactured items of Personal Protective Equipment for a medical practice in Bourne.

I reported last week on the initial work on the Astro turf pitch and am very pleased to add this time that whilst the School has been closed, work has continued apace. We have taken the opportunity afforded by the construction to install a permanent surface, to be finished with tarmac, for the access to the field next to the Science Block. This has been much needed for years. All being well, substantial progress will be made over the Easter break.

At the end of this week we are promised the Government's official guidance on how GCSE grades for our Year 11 students and A-Level grades for our Year 13 students are to be determined now that all the respective public examinations have been cancelled. I know that the students are concerned about how their grades will be determined but they can be reassured that the School will do all it can under the guidance to ensure that the grades that each student achieves are the right grades. I expect to write again to students in Years 11 and 13 once I have received and thoroughly read the guidance and am clear about what will be required of the staff and what data and other information they will have to provide.



I hesitate in these exceptional times to end with my usual good wishes for the coming break. Life is very difficult for all families at the moment and the indications are that it will remain so for some time. Many in the School community will be lamenting cancelled holidays and having to stay inside rather than enjoying the spring sunshine with friends and family. I am well aware too that a good number of parents/carers are self-employed or find their work in areas likely to be severely affected by the crisis. My thoughts are with all families affected in this way. Notwithstanding all the challenges and the inevitable anxieties, I do very much hope that families are able to find some ways in which to make the best of their time together at home.

I do not plan to issue *The Bulletin* over the School holiday period but I will write again if there is a significant change in the advice concerning schools during the lock-down period.

### **BOURNE GRAMMAR HELPS FIGHT COVID-19 - *Mr Brown, Deputy Headteacher***

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is vital for critical workers such as those working in healthcare. Shortly after the school closure was announced, an email was received from the Galletly Medical Practice in Bourne, requesting help to produce PPE face masks to better protect their front-line staff. The Design Engineering teaching team immediately volunteered to collect 3D printers from the Design Engineering labs and set up the machines in their own homes.

3D printing large parts such as these is time-consuming, with each mask taking around 5 hours to print and parts periodically 'failing' mid-print, necessitating re-starting. By running the machines over the weekend, the team were able to manufacture enough parts to make 16 protective masks, which were delivered to the Galletly Practice the following Monday afternoon by Mr Dougall.

