

# BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

*Week ending Friday 22 May 2020*

*From Jonathan Maddox, Headteacher*

## **CLOSURE AND REOPENING UPDATE**

The situation in England remains that no school can open until the Government relaxes the general closure of all schools and the earliest date on which schools might begin to open is Monday 1 June. As we await the decision, believed to be due no later than 28 May, we are continuing to work on our planning to welcome back to School students in Years 10 and 12, according to the programme advised previously and repeated in this edition.

## **NO TIME IN SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 7, 8 & 9**

Unless there is a dramatic change in the Government's position it must be assumed that, unfortunately, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will not be able to return to School this side of the summer holiday. It is impossible at the moment to offer guidance to parents regarding what the situation will be in September, just as it is for parents of the 240 new Year 7 students who will join us in September, and for those of the students who will join us from other schools to start their Sixth Form career.

## **SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS - THE TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING HALF-TERM**

During these two weeks we will be readying the School for the return of the first students - from Year 12 - into what we are calling Week 3. Counting from 1 June, which is the day after half-term, Week 3 is the week commencing Monday 15 June. As part of this planning process it is absolutely essential - given the need to ensure social distancing when students return - that we know with accuracy which students to expect in School after the partial reopening. To facilitate this, parents of students in Years 10 and 12 will be sent by email a link to an online survey - rather like that we used to determine the number of children of Critical Workers - and I most urgently ask parents to complete this when it arrives by email. Once we know the number of students from Year 10 and Year 12 that we expect to welcome back, our planning can be completed. Due to the need to control the number of students in each teaching venue, we *must* know student numbers in advance of their return and will not be able to cope with unexpected variation in the confirmed numbers without a likelihood of considerable inconvenience to students' education caused by having to make last-minute changes under the already difficult operating circumstances.

During these two weeks, Weeks 1 and 2, the School will be open only to students who are children of Critical Workers from all year-groups, as it will be throughout Term 6.

## **SCHOOL PARTIALLY OPEN - FROM MONDAY 15 JUNE - Weeks 3 to 6**

During the four weeks for which the School is partially open, the School day will run from 09:00 to 14:35. Students must leave the School site once their day ends at 14:35. Students should wear their normal School uniform (Year 10) and normal Sixth Form Dress (Year 12). Advice will follow with guidance regarding transport, the arrival protocol and that for moving around the School site as safely as possible. In accordance with Government advice, PPE will not be issued to staff or to students, although staff and students may use privately-owned PPE if they wish to. An appropriate cleaning protocol will be in place.

Further detail beyond that summarised below cannot be provided at the moment. It is expected that timetables will be sent out in Week 2.

## **STUDENTS IN YEAR 12 - THE TERM 6 PLAN**

As explained last week, students in Year 12 may return in each of the two separate weeks commencing 15 June and 29 June (Week 3 and Week 5). Under the model used to construct the timetable for the Sixth Form,

academic subjects are timetabled in five blocks, A to E. Sessions in subjects from Block A will be scheduled for Mondays, those in Block B for Tuesdays and so on. On each day, within the revised School day of 09:00 to 14:35, students will be with their usual A-Level teachers for a four-hour period, with breaks. The programme within each four-hour period will be determined by each of the 26 Subject Leaders so as to provide for the students a programme of support which is best-suited to the nature of each particular subject.

Students must not come into School when they have no session to attend.

## STUDENTS IN YEAR 10 - THE TERM 6 PLAN

Students in Year 10 may return in each of the two separate weeks commencing 22 June and 6 July (Week 4 and Week 6). The situation for Year 10 is much more complicated than for Year 12. In Year 10 students study ten subjects for which they are being prepared for GCSE examinations; students in Year 12 in most cases study just three subjects. To enable a workable timetable to be constructed the Year 10 cohort is divided into two halves which, at our School, are called G and S.

The upshot of all this is that in Year 10 we have to approach the scheduling for Weeks 4 and 6 in an entirely different manner from that we are using for Year 12. A model has been determined and students will have access to a worthwhile and substantial amount of contact with at least some of their usual teachers.

The chief difference, compared with Year 12, is that Year 10 students will not have sessions in all of their academic subjects. This is not possible under the present circumstances. They *will* have sessions in each of their *core* academic subjects. The core academic subjects in Year 10 are English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, Spanish and Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). This is seven of students' ten subjects. For their humanity subject and two option subjects, students will continue to be provided with work using *Teams*, although provision of work in non-core subjects for Year 10 students will be suspended for Weeks 4 and 6, to allow students to focus on their work in School.

Your sons and daughters will know which timetable band they are in; it is either G or S. Students will not attend School each day in Weeks 4 and 6. They will attend according to their band. Over the two weeks, both bands have exactly the same amount of contact time. The schedule is:

Week 4 (week commencing Monday 22 June)

Monday	S
Tuesday	G
Wednesday	S
Thursday	G
Friday	S

Week 6 (week commencing Monday 6 July)

Monday	G
Tuesday	S
Wednesday	G
Thursday	S
Friday	G

Because it will be necessary to split a class (in most cases) in two in order to achieve social distancing in teaching venues, it will not always be the case that a student will be allocated with his/her usual teacher. It *will* be the case that each *teacher* is allocated to his/her own class, but obviously he/she will be able to be with only one half of any given class. The other half will be allocated another subject-specialist teacher. In some instances, sessions have been allocated to take place in the Main Hall, in which case the usual teacher will be with the full class because then there is sufficient space to achieve social distancing for a full class of 30 students.

As for Year 12, the School day will run from 09:00 to 14:35, but for Year 10 the day will be split into four one-hour periods, with breaks. Students will have four periods of contact with staff, each for a different subject, on each day that they are in School. Students must not come in to School when the day is not the day allocated to their band (G or S).

## ALL YEAR-GROUPS: DEVELOPING THE USE OF TEAMS

We are now into our second week of using *Teams*. This week a message was sent to all students, *via Teams*, which informed them of a new development in how *Teams* is being used to support their remote learning.

For every class, in every subject, a *Teams* channel has been created where students may put questions to their teacher, at any time in term-time. The questions should be academic in nature and should relate to the work that is being studied. Teachers will respond as soon as they can, working around the other things required of them and having regard to their normal working hours. Students have been advised that they should not expect their teacher to respond immediately; a teacher at our School may teach two or three hundred students so in some cases students may have to wait for a while before they receive a reply, but each question will be answered as helpfully and as fully as possible.

This development offers students greater access to their teachers and it will provide them with the chance to gain clarification on points when they need further explanation.

This is a positive step forward and as the School continues to develop its use of *Teams*, there will be future developments announced in future weeks.

### **ALL YEAR-GROUPS: PASTORAL UPDATE**

With so many students carrying on their education at home, and students in Year 11 and Year 13 without the public examinations for which they have been preparing, keeping in contact with each student on a personal basis is a formidable task, but we are doing our best to ensure that each of over 1,600 students is contacted individually by his/her form tutor. In some cases this will be by telephone; in other cases a message will be sent using *MILK*. Under normal circumstances tutors would see their tutees every day in School so this programme goes some small way to fill that void. Feedback to date suggests that such contact is hugely appreciated by students and parents. If your son/daughter is yet to be contacted, please be patient; it is expected that every student will have been contacted by mid-June.

As always, if any student requires additional support during these difficult times please contact [pastoral@bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:pastoral@bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk). Parents and students may contact us using this address.

Year 9 students were offered the opportunity to be involved in a live online quiz last Friday and we were delighted to see that there were over 100 participants. In June, all students in Years 7-11 will have the opportunity to take part in a live weekly quiz.

### **SCHOOL WORK OVER HALF-TERM**

Teachers have been asked not to set work over half-term. I am aware that some work may have been set before this decision was announced but colleagues have been advised that it is my wish that students should have a break from online learning for a week, just as the teachers should have a break from setting the work.

### ***ASTROTURF - Mr Ray, Director of PE and Sport***

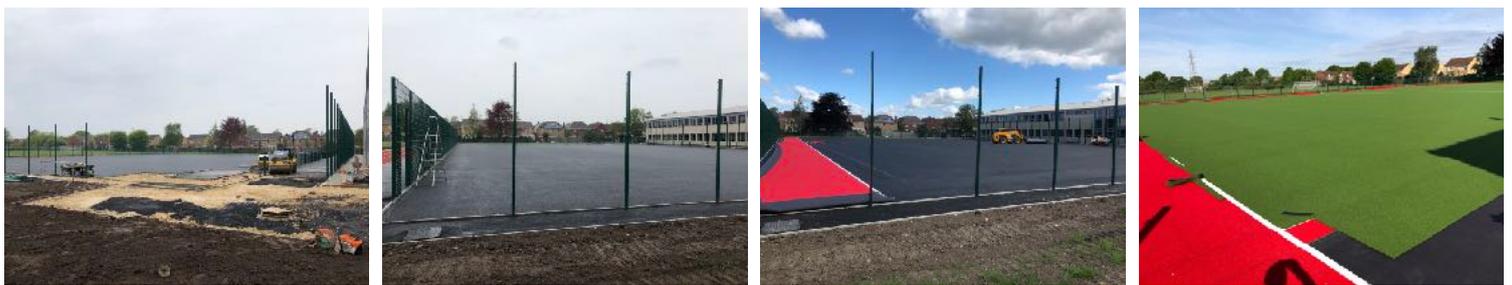
It has been a considerably long road to finally arrive at the completion of our long-awaited Astroturf, or Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). Initial plans started a number of years ago, before a host of changes - including the size, location, lighting, surface, and contractors - culminated in the fantastic facility that will be in use when PE lessons recommence.

Although designed primarily for hockey the surface is nevertheless also suitable for football, netball and tennis to mention but a few sports, whilst many others will inevitably be conducted on the pitch. The playing surface is surrounded by a stunning Bourne Grammar red run-off area for safety and placement of the new hockey and football goals. A broad, hard-standing spectator area with low-level fence has been placed along the length of the facility near the Science Block, whilst an additional hard-standing has been added next to the long-jump pit, seamlessly joining the two facilities. This, combined with the newly-located cricket strip, the Shot circle and the Discus circle and cage, complete the suite of facilities and significant investment made in recent years. A partial refurbishment of the Fitness Suite is due to follow in the very near future. Hopefully these will inspire a new generation to continue the sporting success that the department and its students have experienced over the past 15 years.

Undoubtedly, the Astroturf will transform lessons and be in use on a daily basis, with regular use during extra-curricular activities too. It is now expected that, during exam periods and the winter months when previously we have been unable to use the field or courts due to water or ice, many lessons will continue with significantly less disruption. The Astroturf will be a busy place!

Hockey will benefit greatly - I have no doubt that Miss Bowtell is already making plans. The surface will also provide a fantastic area to develop the basics of hurdling when the athletics season starts, prior to the most-able then utilising the new polymeric long jump run-up to hone their technique. Tennis will also now be able to be taught to two groups at once - additional temporary nets have been purchased to maximise the opportunity for students to participate in small games.

I have no doubt students will be keen and eager to make the most of this new facility - we look forward to a return to normal teaching, clubs, and fixtures.



## ARTWORK

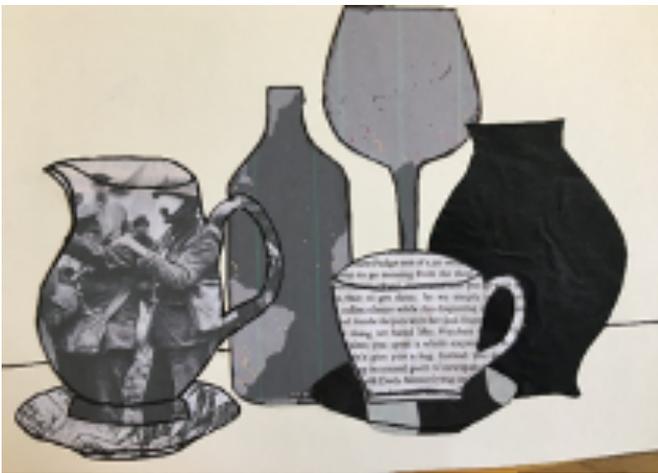
After studying the work of artist Patrick Caulfield, students in Year 8 have been using materials they have at home or computer programmes to produce still life studies. Below is a selection of their impressive results.



*Tia Mizen*



*Kaitlyn Goddard*



*Emma Smith*



*Harrie Metcalfe*



*Raife Brownlow*