

Weekly Communication update 02/07/21

Dear families,

Welcome to this week's Communication update. It will now include an update about what year groups are doing each week.

<p>General Update</p>	<p>I hope this update finds you all well. With less than three weeks left to the end of half term it is now more important than ever that we remain extra vigilant in terms of health and hygiene. Covid cases are rising rapidly and at an alarming rate across schools in Croydon. I really want to get to the end of term without having to send children home. This has always been a key priority for me. Please see guidance in the Covid section below.</p> <p>Year 11 graduated on June 24th. We held the graduation outdoors and the weather was beautiful. It was so sad to see them go and we wish them all the very best.</p> <p>We have just finished a three day reassessment from the National Autistic Society. We are an accredited school and remain so - I will share the report once we receive it. Thank you to the parents who spoke to the assessor. Next Tuesday we have an assessment for the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Award. If you would like to speak to the assessor about the work the school does developing your child in the areas explored in the award then please contact the school office.</p> <p>Weds July 7th is Post 16 final outing. Thurs July 8th is Outings Day for Years 7/8/9. Tutors will have been in touch with details of the trip.</p> <p>Post 16 leavers graduate on Friday July 9th and induction for Post 16 pupils having a second year and pupils joining them in September is 12-16th July. 5-9 July is Year 10 Work Experience. If you need any further detail please contact Sue Card, Work Experience coordinator on suecard@benshammanor.com</p> <p>On Thursday July 22nd at 1.30pm school closes for the Summer break. Please ensure that your dinner account is cleared. On this day there will not be a hot lunch - sandwich or baguette only.</p> <p>In lessons this week pupils have been learning the following:</p> <p>Year 7 pupils have been learning about Holidays in English and in Maths they have been looking at Directions.</p> <p>Year 8 pupils have been making cheese and tomato toasties in Life skills Cooking and in Science have been looking at experiments with shadow and light and light and space.</p> <p>Year 9 pupils have been doing athletics in PE and one group are going to spend the day at the Oval next week for the Surrey County Cricket.</p> <p>A group of KS3 pupils won the Surrey Special Schools football tournament this week. Congratulations to them.</p> <p>Year 10 pupils have been working on doing tally charts and graphs in Maths. All pupils took part in Wellbeing Wednesday this week. It was a wonderful afternoon.</p>
<p>Lateral Flow Testing and Covid update</p>	<p>Please continue to test your children at home on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. We remain a Covid free school and regular testing in conjunction with hands/face/space is the best way to keep our environment safe. If your child or anyone in your house has any Covid symptoms you must do the following:</p> <p>Everyone must self-isolate until the person is tested. If the test is positive, everyone must continue to self-isolate. If the test is negative and no one else in the household develops symptoms and is well then your child can return to school and everyone can stop self-isolating.</p> <p>If your child or anyone in your household tests positive using a lateral flow test you must do the following:</p> <p>Everyone in the household must self-isolate. The person who has tested positive must get a PCR test. If they test positive on the PCR everyone must continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative and no one else has symptoms/tested positive on a lateral flow test then self-isolation can stop.</p>

	<p>If your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid you must do the following:</p> <p>Your child must self-isolate for 10 days. They can return to school after 10 days if they do not develop any symptoms of Covid. If they develop symptoms see above.</p> <p>You must inform the school if your child is absent due to any of the above.</p> <p>Please continue working together to keep everyone safe and well.</p>
Attendance	<p>Your child's attendance at school is compulsory. Please see a summary of Bensham Manor guidance below:</p> <p>In September, assuming there are no further changes, school will continue as normal. This means we will expect our students to have good levels of attendance to get the most out of school (and catch up on some of the learning missed last year due to COVID).</p> <p>As per school policy, if your child is not able to attend school, parents or carers need to contact the school in the morning before 09:00am to inform us and provide a reason why. Sickness (if prolonged or frequent) will require medical evidence such as an appointment card or letter from the GP. An appointment card is the easiest option but you can give the school consent to contact your GP which helps, particularly if the young person has health needs that result in absences.</p> <p>If medical evidence is not provided within 10 days of absence (or request for evidence), the young person will be marked as unauthorised.</p> <p>If absence is persistent with no valid reason, you will be referred to the Education Welfare Officer.</p> <p>Please prioritise your child's attendance. Many thanks.</p>
Parent/carer What's App Group	<p>If you would like to join this group please contact the office with your name, your child's name and the phone number you would like to use.</p>
Wellbeing Award	<p>We are currently working on getting the Wellbeing Award for Bensham Manor in recognition of the huge commitment to wellbeing here. You will be sent a link via email later on today. I am hoping that you will prioritise completing this as your feedback is vital to getting the award. The deadline is Friday July 9th. The pupils also need to complete a questionnaire. We can do that in school - if you are not happy for us to do this then please let the office know.</p>
Sports Day	<p>Sports Day is July 16th at Croydon Arena.</p> <p>Parents and carers, you are welcome from 12.30pm-2pm but you must notify us in advance if you are planning to attend and you intend to take your child home afterwards. Social distancing rules will apply.</p>
Key Dates	<p>I have had an initial communication from the Department of Education about the possibility of at school lateral flow testing from September (similar to when we reopened in March). This could affect the return date in September (currently Monday September 6th) if we need to do a staggered start due to testing. I will let you know as soon as I have more detail but this may also mean that I have to communicate with you over the Summer period.</p>
Your child's class next year.	<p>The office will be writing to you next Thursday with details of your child's class team for next year and a copy of their new timetable.</p>