

Weekly Communication update 01/10/21

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>Hello families. I hope this update finds you well.</p> <p>This month we celebrate Black History Month. The theme for this year's Black History month celebrations is "Proud To BE..."</p> <p>Inspired by the 2020 Black Lives Matter events, the new campaign is called 'Proud To Be'. There will be lots of activities this month culminating in our annual Multicultural Day on Friday Oct 22nd where all staff and pupils celebrate their culture and heritage.</p> <p>A new school council has also been elected which comprises children from each year group. This group has already had their first meeting where they talk about any issues raised by students and give suggestions for areas of development within the school.</p> <p>Next Friday October 8th is Mufti Day in aid of Young Minds and World Mental Health Day. Pupils are to wear something yellow and pay £1. https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/</p> <p>Pupils have been working incredibly hard this week:</p> <p>Year 7 - In Geography Year 7 have been learning the difference between Physical and Human Geography. In Art they have been learning about collage.</p> <p>Year 8 - In Life Skills Cooking I watched Year 8 make healthy breakfast- they all worked so hard. In Drama they have been working on developing their independence skills through creating mini acting sketches.</p> <p>Year 9 - In RE they are looking at Christmas and Diwali. In Life Skills Cooking some pupils have been learning how to roast whilst others have focused on oven safety.</p> <p>Year 10 - In Art they have been developing ideas around the theme of storytelling. In Science pupils are learning about the human body.</p> <p>Year 11 - In RE they are helping to organise this year's Harvest Festival, In Science pupils are learning about the environmental impact of chemical products we use in our home.</p> <p>Post 16 - Post 16 have been working on making poppy wreaths and individual poppy pins for the Poppy Factory in Richmond as part of their work experience.</p> <p>Wishing you all a lovely weekend.</p>
<p>Lateral Flow Testing and Covid update</p>	<p>Please continue to test your children at home twice weekly using the kits we sent home on Wednesday. You should test your children on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. The rules on self-isolation changed on August 16th - the main change is as follows:</p> <p>Self-Isolation:</p> <p>If someone you live with has symptoms of Covid 19 or has tested positive for Covid 19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are fully vaccinated (14 days since your second dose) You are under 18 years and 6 months old You are taking part of have taken part in a Covid vaccine trial You are exempt from vaccination for medical reasons
<p>College Choices for Year 11</p>	<p>If your child is in Year 11, now is the time to start looking at colleges for September 2022. Ms Byrne has sent a list of open events at local colleges. Please look at the college websites for further information. Visiting colleges and talking to staff is the best way to gain an understanding of what is on offer and how your child will be supported. Your child's EHCP coordinator along with Bensham will support you</p>

	during this process.
Winter clothing	As the weather has turned, please ensure that you send your child to school with a winter coat and jumper. We have turned the heating on at school but due to Covid safety, all of the windows remain open. Therefore, a jumper or cardigan is essential. Many thanks.
Computer Issues	Due to a problem with the school system we have been without computers yesterday and today. The problem will be rectified by Monday. All lessons have carried on as normal.
Pastoral Parent/Carer evening	This will take place on Monday the 18th of October from 3.30pm by appointment only. You will be sent a time slot via email from your child's form tutor over the next 10 days.
Supporting your child's learning	Please see the attached sheet from Paul Cabb who does a lot of work on supporting pupils and families to develop independence, social skills and learning.,
Contact details	If you have a new email address/telephone number then please ensure that you contact the office to update your details. Please do this via email to: theoffice@benshammanor.com . By law we must have the contact details for 2 adults for each child. Thank you.