



Bishop Milner
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Newsletter

ALL THE LATEST FROM BISHOP MILNER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

SPRING 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Easter break as we look forward to a little more normality as the country continues to gradually exit the lockdown.

Last term I stated that the Autumn term was the toughest term we have ever experienced in college/school, on this occasion I think the Spring term has been one of the strangest terms we've ever experienced. We have had mass testing, remote learning and even teachers who were forced to shield have been beamed into classrooms on a daily basis from their homes.

For the vast majority of our students, the return to college has gone smoothly and you should be very proud of your sons and daughters for the way they have adapted to college life once again. Unfortunately, we have a small cohort of students who have really struggled to return in terms of their attitude to learning and behaviour towards other students. Whilst every incident is different in terms of the specifics, there is a common theme when we investigate – Social Media! Lockdown hasn't helped matters at all with students having to stay at home and they will naturally turn to mobile phones, ipads and computers. Unfortunately, some students haven't the maturity to use them appropriately or indeed see this as the perfect opportunity to be unkind, or should I say, downright nasty to others. Since the return to college on 8 March, staff have found themselves unpicking various incidents of inappropriate behaviour involving students who are struggling to manage their social interactions well. In the vast majority of cases, social media has been part of the issue over the lockdown period and then it has 'boiled over' when the students have returned and seen each other face to face.

As a result, we as a college have reviewed our curriculum in terms of PSHE and SMSVC and brought forward some crucial topics in order to raise even more awareness of the issues we are seeing on a daily basis. While we trust you kept a keen eye on your child's interactions online during lockdown, we implore you to stay vigilant and not make the false assumption that now students are back in college, their relationships with peers won't require added support from within the home. We now look forward to the summer term and hope and pray that whilst the country gradually re-opens up, we as a college can continue to return to some form of normality. It has been fantastic having the students back on campus.

Once again, I'd like to thank parents and carers for your support with the continued mass testing programme. We believe it's worked really well and now students are asked to complete home testing. Below is some key information regarding the process in addition to the other communications already sent out to parents.

Please be reminded students **return to college on Tuesday 20 April** as Monday 19 April is a training day.

Happy Easter and please continue to stay safe, God Bless


Mr R May
Principal

IMPORTANT

As we now enter the Easter break any students who show symptoms **AFTER Saturday 3 April 2021** and subsequently test positive, **parents must follow the NHS guidance for 'track and trace'**. As a college we will not be required to complete 'contact tracing' as students won't have been on our campus or in contact with our students 48 hours before symptoms appeared. 'Contract tracing' will resume at Bishop Milner Catholic College from Tuesday 20 April 2021.

If your son or daughter tests positive today (Thursday 1 April, Friday 2 April or Saturday 3 April) please telephone 01384 889422 to leave a message and we will monitor messages until Saturday 3.30pm. This will allow us to 'contact trace' those students who may have been in contact with your son/daughter 2 days prior to the positive test or onset of symptoms. There will be no contact tracing from staff at Bishop Milner after Saturday 3 April.

It is important that parents/carers let us know if their son or daughter is self-isolating OR have tested positive over the Easter break at any point, so we can listen to the answerphone messages on our return to college for the new term (Tuesday 20 April 2021).

****You have received specific instructions regarding Lateral Flow Testing (Home testing) – it is important that this is followed correctly to keep our community safe.****



WELCOME TO THE WELLBEING AWARD FOR SCHOOLS SPRING UPDATE

Firstly, on behalf of the Wellbeing team - thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the parent/carer survey sent out earlier in the term. It was great to see so many responses.

We have carried on the drive to improve wellbeing and mental health across the college community in spite of the lockdowns and disruption to the school terms. Perhaps we should have kept you more informed about the award, particularly our new parents – this was noted in the survey responses. Our work carried on regardless and I hope you found the regular emails and updates around positive mental health, wellbeing and parenting tips useful throughout the lockdown periods.

Regarding the responses from the survey, they have been overwhelmingly positive and you have seen and identified the improvements we striving to make to support the wellbeing of our students, staff and their families.

You demonstrated that there were real improvements in who you could talk to in college if you had a concern about your child; how college encourages you to talk about how you or your child is feeling, and a really big increase in you being happy to contact college about your child's feelings.

We are very pleased that you feel confident to do all of these things – we are always open to working in partnership with you and to ensure that your child's wellbeing is supported.

Below is a list of all the support available to students in college. They will be aware of this, so please have a conversation with them and encourage them to access this if required:

- School Counsellor: Mrs K Harding
- School Nurse: Mrs L Lowe
- Pastoral Team – including your child's Head of Year, their tutor, whole college positive behaviour Mentor
- Student Welfare and Safeguarding Lead: Mrs S Hand
- The Wellbeing Team – names are on the student information board
- Kooth.com
- Support from the Young Person's Police Officer and the Neighbourhood Policing Team

This term we have several events and activities planned to support your child's emotional well being and mental health. These include:

- 'Talking Heads' – an interactive performance and workshop by Loudmouth Theatre Company about mental health for Year 7 and Year 8.
- Gang Input day for Year 9, in conjunction with West Midlands Police
- Mental wellbeing and resilience workshop for Years 11, 12 and 13

In the summer term, we will be fortunate to be able to access Dudley's new Mental Health Support Team and I hope to have a practitioner available on site for our students at various points during the college week (This is a referral only service)

PHSE/Tutor activities are ongoing and address all manner of topics including wellbeing

Tutors will be engaging their students in a Resilience Framework model to support them day to day.

I hope that you will see from everything listed that we are endeavouring to provide as much support as we can, particularly in the wake of the current climate.

Please continue to contact us if you have any concerns about your child – our door is always open and we will do our best to help you. If we can't, then we will signpost you to the most appropriate service.

Wishing you a happy and holy Easter time,

With all best wishes,

Mrs Hand and The Wellbeing Team



MEMORY PROJECT

Well done to all of the Sixth Form students who recently took part in creating portraits for the Memory Project.

The Memory Project is a charitable organization that invites students to help cultivate global kindness by creating portraits for children around the world who have faced substantial challenges, such as violence, war, extreme poverty, neglect, and loss of parents. These portraits help children feel valued and important, to know that many people care about their well-being, and provide a special childhood memory in the future.



Over the past three years, Sixth Form students from Bishop Milner Catholic College have painted portraits for teenagers from Haiti and the Philippines.



This year portraits were sent to teenagers in Afghanistan.

Ms Gartland

ITEMS LEFT AT RECEPTION

Please be reminded that our Reception is unable to accept any items e.g. money, equipment, books, PE kit, cooking ingredients etc from parents/ carers during the college day.

Students should be attending college fully equipped for the day.

WATER BOTTLES

Students are to bring water bottles in to college as there are no water fountains available until we receive further advice from the Government .



This month we have launched this years “Brilliant club” an academic programme for year 10’s which aims to widen

access for outstanding pupils to some of the most selective universities in the country. Here at Bishop Milner we have always had an excellent success rate with the project and hope this year will be no exception.

Awareness Raising session Wednesday 31 March:

During the morning Year 9's participated in an awareness raising session exploring attitudes around Equality, Diversity and Healthy Relationships.

We were very fortunate to have input from the Young Person's Police Officer, PC Peters, who delivered an assembly to the year group on what is acceptable behaviour towards everyone in our community and society at large.

This was followed by workshops on Equality and Diversity – in the workplace and in schools.

The morning ended with a session on Healthy relationships – what constitutes inappropriate behaviours and language and how we deal with social media and what positive relationships look like for us all.

The students engaged really well and we were really impressed with their positive and mature responses to the materials we developed for them.

Please have a chat to your children over the Easter holiday about what they learned.

They have all been made aware of the various ways in which they can access support should they wish to follow up on anything addressed this morning.

Wishing you a very happy and restful Easter,

Mrs Hand and Mrs Foster

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES RESULTS PANCAKE COMPETITION

This was an incredibly difficult competition to judge. The quality of the presentation, creativity, invention and attention to detail gave us a real headache in trying to choose the winning entries. Master Chef had better get ready to be bombarded with future winners. The only disappoint was not being able to sample the dishes before making our decisions.

A huge congratulations to all competition winners and entries. We look forward to seeing more of your future creations!! Félicitations et merci beaucoup tout le monde!!



Mrs Manoila and Mr Bradbury

Joint 1 st Place	Joint 2 nd Place	Runners Up
<p>Megan Coll (Year 8) Joseph Lamb-Lopez (Year 7) Kyra Spence (Year 7)</p>	<p>Gabriella Field (Year 7) Maja Grzybek (Year 7) Daisy Oliver (Year 7)</p>	<p>Noel Temba (Year 7) Bethany Zibgowa (Year 7) Izaak Norton (Year 7) Ellis Parkes (Year 7) Madihah Ghaffar (Year 8)</p>





We know how difficult the past few weeks have been for you and the young people in your household; dealing with lockdown restrictions and in many cases home schooling.

You may have heard your child mention **Kooth** through information they have received from their school. We wished to reach out to you directly so that you're aware of all of the support available, and how your child can access this, should they need to.

Kooth.com is a **free, safe** and **anonymous** online mental wellbeing community for children and young people aged 11+.

We have a range of different features that support our service users, including:

- Articles written by Kooth users (children and young people)
- Discussion boards and live forums
- Mini activity hub
- My goals tracker
- Personal journal
- Chats (text based) with our friendly team of qualified professionals up to 10pm each night, 365 days per year.

Kooth is easily accessible and young people can sign up to the service at www.kooth.com

We have set up some virtual sessions specifically for parents and carers based in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin so we can introduce you to Kooth and give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

The events have been scheduled throughout April and early May.

You can sign up to attend the sessions by following this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/kooth-parentcarer-session-tickets-145270260259>

If you can't attend the sessions but have further questions, please speak to your child's school, through who we can provide any further details as requested.

We hope this information has been useful, and hope to see some of you at the session.

Kind Regards

Jen Shergill

Kooth Engagement Lead
*(for the Black Country, Shropshire,
Telford & Wrekin).*

THURSDAY MINDFUL SESSION



Bishop Milner 6th form, have launched our Thursday Mindful session. As part of supporting Mental Health across our 6th form provision. With support from the amazing Chet from Yoga-in-schools and a fabulous Donation from Tesco's Dudley, our students were able to take part in various activities to help with their mental health.

Contacting College:

Post: Bishop Milner Catholic College
Burton Road
DUDLEY
DY1 3BY

Telephone: 01384 889422

Email: info@bmilner.Dudley.sch.uk

Website: www.bmilner.dudley.sch.uk

If you wish to contact a member of staff, the easiest way is usually by sending a note in to college with your child. If you prefer you may ring reception and leave a message or arrange an appointment.

All visitors to college must register their visit at Reception.

Please be aware that all our staff have busy schedules and are unable to meet with visitors except by prior arrangement.

Reception is staffed from 8.30am-4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30-4.00 Friday. Outside these hours, your message will be taken by an answer phone.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend college, please telephone college each day of absence as early as possible. The absence line is available 24 hours a day. Please tell us which tutor group your child is in.

If college is closed for any reason (e.g. bad weather) this will be announced on local radio, or website and by an SMS message.

Dates for your Diary

2021 Term Dates

Summer Term:

19 April-21 July 2021

Term Starts: Monday

19 April 2021 (college closed to students)

Half Term: Monday 31

May-Friday 4 June 2021

Term Ends:

Wednesday 21 July 2021

Training Days:

Monday 19 April 2021

Thursday 6 May: Local Elections (to be confirmed) this may require partial closure of college for some year groups.

