



## Barton Peveril College Update | 5th February 2021

### The Next Half-Term

You are all no doubt aware that the Prime Minister has tentatively suggested the 8th March 2021 as the first possible date for the start of a return to schools and colleges. Schools and Colleges will be informed two weeks before any opening date so that we can plan the best method for students to return safely. Please rest assured, we will inform you immediately of the arrangements for any reopening when we are able to re-open safely, but for now students need to keep learning online. Please be aware anything could happen on 8 March: no return, a staggered return, blended learning with online and in college work, or potentially a week of covid testing in college whilst learning carries on online if we have to test students before they rejoin. Whatever the arrangements, we will prioritise student and family health, and the most thorough way of delivering education for our students.

### Consultation: Exams and Awarding Grades

This Consultation Paper was wide ranging and covered many aspects of the GCSE, vocational diplomas and certificates, and A Level examination processes and procedures. The Consultation Paper was open to students and pupils, parents/guardians as well as teachers and educational leaders. We are looking forward to getting the results on 22nd February together with the government's decision on how to move forward. It will then take us a little time to understand and decide how the new system will work in practice for Barton Peveril learners, to make sure they can achieve the grades that best reflect their progress.

### Summer Term Dates

Regrettably, until we have the results from the Government's Consultation Paper, we cannot publish Summer Term dates. For example, the consultation suggested that A Level and GCSE results might be made available in July; if this is part of the final decision, we would not recommend booking a holiday during this time. If the publication dates remain at the scheduled time (24th August for A levels and Diplomas) it is essential that you are around. Again, we will keep you informed as soon as we know the outcomes from the consultation.

### INSET Day: Monday 22nd February

Please remember that there will be no online lessons or Tutor Sessions on this day.

### Returning to College and COVID Testing

Part of the safe return to College is likely to include testing students and staff. We have been developing a system using the lateral flow tests provided by the government, but this system is very slow to administer, and occupies large numbers of staff and considerable space in college. To test all students and staff once would take at least a week. Lessons in college would not be possible whilst this took place, and we would try to disrupt online lessons as little as possible whilst testing was taking place. Once back in college we are intending to use a simple but highly accurate saliva test, developed by Southampton University and the University Hospital Southampton.

[Click here for more information.](#)

This would allow us to collect samples from all our students and staff on a weekly basis, taking up very little staff time, allowing lessons to continue and reducing the risk of asymptomatic cases. We will send you more information about arrangements as soon as we can.

### The Strategy for Assessing Examples of Students' Work

Although we have not been given any guidance on the assessment and grading of the summer exams yet, each department, subject and teacher is devising ways we can ensure every student can complete subject assignments to the best of their ability during the next half term. Students are not powerless, on the contrary, they can help secure their potential grades if they work hard now to achieve them. Providing the evidence of great work to all their teachers is essential.

### Three Hour Lessons

We understand that many students are finding 3 hour lessons demanding, particularly when learning online. The two week timetable, with two 3 hour lessons a day, was introduced in order for us to control the number of students on the College site at any one time and reduce the potential for transmitting the virus. When we return to in-College lessons we presume that it will still be necessary to maintain social distancing - so the 3 hour timetable will have to remain until at least the end of this academic year.

However, our plan is to return to 3 x 90 minute lessons a week in each subject from September (COVID permitting).