

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are keeping well and that you are finding my weekly updates useful as we strive to support you as much as possible during these times.

I have shared a video update once again this week on our social media pages which summarises the information below and shares our 'work of the week' classes and form groups. Please take some time to watch the video with your child/ren, here: <https://youtu.be/XWfwggC8t38>

Over the past week, since my last letter, it has been great to see the North West progressing with the testing and vaccination programme. Blackburn Cathedral is being used as a mass vaccination centre and we know some of our Old Blackburnians have received their vaccinations in recent weeks. I urge you to please consider the vaccination when you are offered it, so that normality can resume as soon as possible for us all.

Google Classroom: Email Summaries

Parents and carers in Year 7 and above have been sent an email (or emails) at some point over the last few months titled 'Get Google Classroom email summaries for [child's name]' from Google Classroom. Some parents/carers have not yet accepted the invitation which allows parents/carers to receive regular email summaries of their child's progress including upcoming work, missing work, teacher posts and remote learning. If you are not receiving these regular emails please open the invitation email that was sent to your email address (which may have gone into your junk folder) by admin@QEGSonline.com and click 'accept', following the instructions presented to you. This setting will allow you to receive daily or weekly summaries on your child/ren's remote learning.

If you have not received this email, please contact our IT Technician, Mr Hilton, LHilton@QEGSBlackburn.com and he will be able to help.

Reports and welfare calls

Year 9 reports are now complete and parents/carers should expect to receive these by the end of next week. In the reports, teachers have reflected on the work completed in the first term of this academic year, whilst the Head of Year's comment will also reference your child's engagement with the remote learning that has taken place since the start of Lent term. As mentioned last week, Year 7 reports will also be shared in the coming weeks, so I would like to remind Year 7 pupils that the work they are doing at home now will be considered in these reports and to continue working hard.

I hope you have all now received at least one welfare call, which are being carried out by Mrs Tighe in the Primary Phase and various staff in our Senior Phase. It is essential we speak to every family so that we can check in and see how pupils and students are doing at home and if there is any further support the school can give. If you have any queries that cannot wait until your child's welfare call, please email your child's Form Tutor or in urgent cases, please call 01254686300. Welfare calls will continue alongside remote learning and we really appreciate your feedback during these calls.

Elevate Webinars

Elevate Education are continuing to deliver a range of webinars for parents and carers with the next session taking place on Tuesday 9th February 2021, 6-7pm. The session will focus on 'managing stress and wellbeing' discussing how to establish and maintain good routines during lockdown and what to do when things get overwhelming. To register, please click here: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>.

To view the last webinar, which focused on motivation, please click here: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/replay>. You can view the plans for further webinars this term, by clicking the registration link above.

Below I have shared some information which has not changed since my last letter but is an important reminder should you require it. We will share any further updates on our website and social media, so please continue to check these regularly.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's learning.

Best wishes,

Mrs CY Gammon

Critical worker/vulnerable children

We have approximately 200 pupils and students in school per day, classed as either vulnerable children or children of critical workers. Whilst we welcome these pupils and students into school, please ensure that you only request a place in school if you absolutely require one. Where possible, please do keep your children at home unless they are classed as vulnerable so that we can support the overall aim of reducing infection rates in the area and can continue to protect our community. As a reminder, please email criticalworker@QEGSBlackburn.com if you wish to request a place in school for your child/ren.

We understand the challenges of remote learning whilst parents and carers work from home and although we encourage children to follow their timetable as closely as possible, we do not expect all lessons to be followed live as we appreciate the difficulties of accommodating the balance of working from home whilst supporting the learning of your children. All teachers are available during normal school hours and are keen to support every pupil and student so please do encourage your children to use this support.

COVID updates

We have a duty to report to the Department for Education on the COVID-19 situation in our school and wider community. Therefore, please do keep us informed if your child is self-isolating for any reason. You can do this by emailing reportchildabsence@qegsblackburn.com or calling 01254 686300. In addition, if your child has to take a COVID-19 test, please email me directly with the details of the test date and the outcome, at the earliest opportunity, so we can continue to report this information to the DfE.

As mentioned in my previous letter, if you require equipment to aid with your child's remote learning, please email homeit@QEGSBlackburn.com and we will do our best to fulfil your request. We have a small number of devices left in school which we are happy to loan to pupils and students, regardless of their year group.

Symptoms of Covid-19

The symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) are a new continuous cough or a high temperature (over 37.8°C) or Anosmia (the loss of or a change in your normal sense of smell. It can also affect sense of taste as the two are closely linked). If your child or any member of their household has any of these symptoms, then your child must not come to school.

If your child is ill due to having symptoms of Covid-19, please notify school immediately, marking your email as urgent, follow the PHE 'stay at home' guidance, which sets out that they must self-

isolate for at least 10 days and arrange for your child to have a Covid-19 test immediately to ensure full engagement with the test and trace system. Please inform school immediately of the results of the test. A member of school staff will contact you during the first day of absence to confirm dates of the isolation period. This also applies if your child is isolating due to being in direct contact with someone who has symptoms of Covid-19.

If your child becomes ill with symptoms of Covid-19 during the school day they will be immediately placed in isolation (in accordance with government guidance) and you will be contacted and asked to collect them. If you cannot be reached, the other contacts given will be called as it is essential for your child to go home as soon as possible.

If your child has a positive result from a Covid-19 test, then they must inform the school immediately and follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed Covid-19. They must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. The rest of the household must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)'.

If your child has a negative result from a Covid-19 test then they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 10-day isolation period.

I ask that you keep a close eye on your children and do not send them into school if they are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. This is to ensure the safety of the whole QEGS community. If you do decide for your child to have a Covid-19 test then please do not send them into school until the result of the test is known, even if they seem well.

If your child is self-isolating then please do email myself at head@qegsblackburn.com as we are endeavouring to keep detailed records of who is isolating and for what reason. The details that I need are whether they are isolating due to a member of the household or due to a close contact outside of the household/school and, if so, what date the isolation ends or if they are isolating due to having symptoms themselves and, if so, have they had a test and when. If your child has had a test then please do email me the results so that we can update our records.

Shielding

If your child still requires to shield, then please contact Mr NH Vyse via email, nvyse@qegsblackburn.com, to explain the reasons why your child can not attend school. Mr Vyse will then contact parents/carers directly to discuss the situation including appropriate measures.

Travel

We ask that all parents and carers think carefully about how their child travels to school. Please read and follow the [safer travel guidance for passengers](#) when planning your travel. **If your child is traveling by public transport then they will be expected to wear a face covering.** The preferred method is to walk when possible following social distancing measures.