



# Beauchamps High School

Business and Enterprise  
Centre of Excellence for Learning

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15 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

After the turbulence of last week, this week has seemed much more settled, with teachers and students settling into the daily routine of remote learning. All teachers are ensuring that every lesson incorporates interactive teaching and learning and the vast majority of our students are now engaging well. Teachers are working hard at developing assessment and feedback opportunities so that teachers and leaders will be able to track academic progress closely.

We are incredibly proud of our students and the way they are engaging in remote learning. Indeed the high levels of engagement have meant that many students, and staff, are not getting much of a break between lessons. Normally in school there would be the natural break between lessons as students move from one lesson to another. Therefore, we have made the decision to make all lessons 50 minutes in length rather than the full hour. This gives students and teachers the chance to leave the desk and stretch their legs between lessons. Lessons will start at the same time as normal but end 10 minutes earlier.

We are also keen to praise and reward students for their excellent efforts and outstanding work whilst at home. Teachers have been reminded to continue to use our school rewards programme of merits, commendations, and other departmental based celebrations whilst we are remote learning. We are also continuing our efforts to celebrate student achievements through our social media forums, newsletter and website.

We are aware that some students are still struggling with remote learning and we are doing our best to support everyone. We are now closely monitoring attendance of our remote lessons and we are calling parents/carers if we have concerns about non-attendance, so we can work through any issues together and support everyone with accessing our provision. Please continue to contact the relevant Year Leader if you have any concerns about your child's ability to access the remote learning on offer. We will also be sending out an updated "Teams" user guide to all parents/carers today which hopefully you will find useful.

We have a very small group of critical worker students in school. However, guidance has not changed, and all critical worker students should stay at home if possible.

For Year 11 and 13 students, unfortunately I still have no further details to share regarding how exam grades will be determined this summer. However, in a letter to Ofqual [published](#) yesterday, Gavin Williamson sets out his policy views on alternative arrangements for GCSE and A levels, which involve the awarding of grades based on teacher assessment and asks that a joint DFE/Ofqual consultation is launched later this week to run for a fortnight. I would like to stress the importance of Year 11 and 13 students continuing to work hard and to do their very best, the government have made it very clear that the GCSE and A Level courses have not closed, and there will be important assessments of some kind in the months ahead. I know how this uncertainty is affecting stress and anxiety levels for our students and families, I and all the staff share this with you. Hopefully we will have greater clarity about what lies ahead soon after the two week consultation process.

We have had some further guidance on Free School Meal vouchers in the last few days. If your child is in receipt of FSMs we will be in contact as soon as possible to explain how the system will work. If you are at all concerned about this please contact Mrs Frost at [hfrost@beauchamps.essex.sch.uk](mailto:hfrost@beauchamps.essex.sch.uk).

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Headteacher: Mr M Harper BA Hons NPQH

The start to this term has been a difficult one and we still have many challenging weeks ahead, but we should all be very proud of the many positive achievements of our Beauchamps school community.

I, and all the staff sincerely thank you for your continued support.

Please stay safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mat Harper', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Mat Harper**  
**Headteacher**