



BIDDICK PARENT WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week Starting 25th January 2021

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WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Message from Miss Morris, Headteacher

My most sincere thanks to parents who have shared positive comments with staff over the past week or so. It means so much to know that our work is appreciated. We are extremely proud of how our students are engaging with remote learning and the brilliant pieces of work they are creating, thank you for your support with this.

As home learning continues, we are reviewing remote learning and looking for ways to further develop the curriculum - we are conscious that 'screen time' has increased significantly as a result of home learning and we investigating ways to balance this.

With the increase in time spent online, it is very important that parents/carers monitor who their children are speaking to online. I know it is not nice to think about, but if your child does not know the contact in person then you do not know who it is and this is potentially harmful. Please be aware of this to protect your child and block any contacts that your child does not know. 'Think You Know' website has released some home education packs for you to use with your child. Please click on this link for further information and to access these:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

This week's Parent Bulletin includes an update on the national consultation about Year 11 exams, I encourage parents and carers to add their response to the Ofqual consultation. Year 9 students continue to consider their Option choices for Key Stage Four, and a reminder to book appointments for the Year 9 Parents' Evening on 28th January.

For a number of months now, the Student Council have been pressing for a uniform review and we would very much like to know your thoughts and opinions. We would be grateful if you could complete the survey included in this bulletin. Thank you for your continued support.

Biddick Academy Uniform – Parent Consultation Survey

- Our Student Council have told us that they would like us to review the Academy uniform and as part of the consultation we would like your opinions on school uniform.
- Please click the following link and take 5 minutes to complete the survey. Your feedback is really valuable to us as part of the initial consultation process.
- Deadline for responses is Friday 29th January at 12.00pm.

[Biddick Academy - Parent Uniform Consultation Survey](#)

Year 11 Exam update

- As you will be aware, on Monday 4th January the Prime Minister confirmed that some summer exams will not go ahead as planned, stating that it was not possible or fair for students.
- Please click the following link to our website to access the letter from Miss Moore providing Year 11 parents and students with further information.

[Letter to Parents of Year 11 students regarding exams - January 2021](#)

Reading at home for pleasure – how to support you child

- We would like to encourage you to support your child to read at home for pleasure and you can find some top tips and recommended reading lists on our website by clicking the following links.

[7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home](#)

[Recommended Reading List by Subject](#)

[Key Stage 4 Recommended Reading List](#)

[A Parents Guide to Accelerated Reader](#)

- You may have read in the news that Oak National Academy have teamed up with the National Literacy Trust to offer free access to a virtual library.
- Every week they will showcase a different book for students to read online for free.
- This week, their chosen book is the brilliant Jacqueline Wilson's 'Tracy Beaker'. Follow the link below to read for free!
- Please click the following link to find out more information.

<https://library.thenational.academy/spend-time-with-tracy-beaker-and-jacqueline-wilson/>

Year 11 - careers and future choices

- We have a very well established Careers Programme which has been modified to take into consideration the current situation.
- We would like to take the opportunity to update parents and carers about how parents and students can access advice and guidance.
- All year 11 students will receive a **one-on-one, online interview** to discuss their future options and choices.
- Students can access information, advice and guidance on a specific TEAMs group that has been set up called 'Year 11 Character Award – Aiming High'
- Further information to help parents and carers support their child, can be found on our website which has a dedicated page to assist parents and carers help their children make informed choices about their future. The link to the Careers Weekly Bulletin is also below.

[Biddick Academy - Careers support for parents](#)

[Character and Careers Bulletin – January 2021](#)

- As always, Mrs Roberts is here to help so please do not hesitate to contact her on - roberts.k@biddickacademy.com

FutureMe

- As part of the Academy's careers programme, we are working in conjunction with the North East Collaborative Outreach Programme (NECOP,) which is a partnership of all the universities and colleges in the North East region.
- The aim of the programme is to support young people in the North East think about their futures and how higher education can help them reach their goals.
- Over the coming weeks, there will be a series of activities for your son/daughter to get involved with, which will be shared through ClassCharts and Teams.
- For further information, please go to <https://futureme.ac.uk/about>.
- For access to the data sharing agreement, please go to the school website using the following link.

[FutureMe Privacy Notice](#)

Year 9 Parents Evening

- Parents of our Year 9 students have received an email inviting them to book appointments online for a virtual Parents Evening.
- Appointments are filling up fast, so if you haven't already booked we encourage you to do this quickly as the deadline is Monday 25th January 2021 at 12.00pm.
- Please click the following link to access the instructions on our website.

[Year 9 Parents Evening Guide](#)