

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all the wonderful work that you have shared with us this week. We are issuing reward certificates and Headteacher's awards regularly. If you think your child had earned one of these and hasn't yet had one then please get in touch with your child's tutor and let us know. All emails are available on the list sent out at the start of lockdown.

Thank you to everyone who filled in our survey last week. The positive comments and feedback have been overwhelming. We are constantly striving to improve our provision and support for all our students and your feedback will help us ensure we keep on track with that.

Home Learning

Last week you received an updated document detailing work and resources already on the school website as well as details of work soon to be released. There are also lots of resources for well being too.

This week we are proud to announce we have secured access to online courses written by Eton School and usually only offered to their own students. Y10 and 11 tutors will email you over the next few days with a code to allow your child to access an EtonX on-line learning programme. We have managed to secure this for free, the usual cost is £50.

The Y10 course is about creative problem solving. The Y11 course is about making an impact. Both courses will help students with their future learning and will look awesome on their CV, if they complete it. Both lead to an accreditation.

We will soon be announcing further details of similar courses for children in Y7-9, hopefully this week. Students will be able to take accredited courses in:

- An introduction to Business and Enterprise
- An introduction to Engineering
- An introduction to Food and cooking
- An introduction to fitness and health
- An introduction to child care
- An introduction to nutrition

These materials are provided by an accredited level 2 qualification provider (IAchieve). This learning will be a very useful preparation for KS4 learning as well as being interesting for its own sake.

In addition, History are emailing the parents of Y10 students with personalised log-ins to <https://www.historyhomework.com/>

As always all staff are available, as set out in the timetable to, answer any queries about work or give feedback on work. As ever, I appreciate that these are difficult times. Structure can be helpful for your children to feel good about themselves and confident about returning to school but many people are juggling home schooling for several children as well as working from home. Just encourage your child to do what they can and to engage with their teachers as much as possible. Their wellbeing, and yours, remains the top priority.

Safeguarding

I hope you found the information about Zoom and Houseparty helpful from last week. Social media and the online work are so important at the moment for keeping in touch with friends and family, however we all realise the importance of doing this safely. If you have any queries about any apps that your child is using or any other safeguarding concerns then please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Support

These are difficult times and many families are facing new challenges and worries. If there is any way that we can help, or if your child would like someone to talk to. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

I keep saying it but it is true, all the staff at The Birley Academy are incredibly proud of how our students are adapting to the challenges and trying so hard. We love hearing about what they are doing. Thank you for your support.

Stay safe and take care.

Sincerely,

Gina Newton

This will be done by Wednesday.