



A word from the Principal

We have reached the first half-term of this most unusual academic year with many changes we have had to make. The school day looks very different and there is less time for pupils to socialise or be involved in extra-curricular activities.



I am pleased to say we have had our first two Form Masses and we look forward to BGN Day [virtually] on Friday 6 November when we come back. Please note that school will finish at 12.30 pm on this day.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all our staff, pupils and parents for ensuring BGN can

operate as best as possible in these unusual circumstances. Everyone is giving their best and the atmosphere around school is good.

I wish you all a well deserved break and look forward to seeing you after half-term.

Fraser Long—Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October	Half-term holiday Return to school on Monday 2 November
Friday 6 November	BGN Day School closes @ 12.30 pm to all pupils
Tuesday 10 November	Year 9 Options' Information
Thursday 12 November	Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening
Friday 20 November	Year 11 mocks begin
Friday 11 December	Sixth Form Taster Day for Year 11
Friday 18 December	School closes for the Christmas break @ 1 pm Return to school on Tuesday 5 January

COVID-19 INFORMATION

If a student tests positive for Covid-19 outside of school hours, please email:

covid@bgn.oxon.sch.uk

This email address is for emergency use only.

If your child has virus symptoms and has not yet been tested, please phone 119, the NHS Covid-19 phone number for advice.

During school hours, please do not email, instead phone the school office on 01295 264216 to report this issue.

Please provide the following information:

- The student's full name and their year group
- Date of positive test
- A phone number that you can be contacted on and a back-up additional phone number
- Mode of transport to school
- Names of any students/friends that your child was in close contact with during the 48-hour period prior to developing symptoms (close contact is being closer than 2 metres for more than 15 minutes or travelling in a car together).

Please follow all the advice given to you by NHS119 and please provide all relevant information to the NHS Track and Trace system.

All members of the household are required to self-isolate for 14 days if someone in the household has tested positive.

Welcome back

As we reach the end of an extraordinary term, I would like to extend my huge thanks to all of our students and their families for their support in ensuring that our school community has been able to function so successfully. We know that BGN is an amazing school and this was proven throughout the lockdown period. The return to school was always going to be a challenge, but our BGN community have risen to this, as always.

We began the term by holding individual year group assemblies in the Sports Hall so that we could welcome everyone back and explain what the expectations were for the term ahead. Our site team had worked relentlessly to ensure everything was in place for a safe return to school and they have continued to work tirelessly so every classroom has all the necessary equipment. They do all they can throughout the day to keep our environment safe. We are also grateful to our admin team who have continued to work with great energy to ensure that all areas of school life are operating as they should.

Our break and lunch times have altered significantly so every year group can remain in their own bubble throughout the day. The catering staff have been working harder than ever to cope with the demand of a lunchtime which begins at 11.10 am and ends at 1.40 pm. Each year group has a 30-minute lunch break during this time. We have also invested in some playground equipment so our students are able to play basketball, spin hoops or take up the challenge of skipping, all of which have proven a big hit.



We have had the privilege of holding Pupil Leadership Team interviews and appointing our PLT for the coming year, under the leadership of Miss Charlotte Smith. Listening to the views of our most senior students in this forum was a great reminder of the values we hold in this community. They have so many fantastic ideas about how our school can retain its community identity, whilst also being in the current year group bubbles. This team is unstoppable with preparations for BGN Day already under way and plans are afoot for the renowned BGN Christmas Talent Show ... watch this space!

We would like to welcome our new priests from St John's, Fr John and Fr Ryan, to our BGN community. With their support, we have been able to reinstate our Form Masses so that each form group can participate in their own Mass at least once during the school year. These Masses are taking place on Thursday mornings during form time in the Chapel and we are very grateful this is something we have been able to start afresh.

Welcome back *[continued...]*



Importantly, students have given us feedback they are glad to return to school and are enjoying their learning. They are now well used to the new routines in the school day. Windows are kept open in classrooms to ensure good ventilation and we are going outside at break and lunch.

Over this half-term, I encourage you to ensure your son/daughter is equipped for outdoor breaks on their return to school and in accordance with our school uniform policy. Hoodies are not part of the uniform, so they should be wearing a school jumper to keep warm and coats should be either plain navy or black, not

any other colour. Students may bring umbrellas into school if they wish. Finally, a gentle reminder that face masks become mandatory around school after the half-term break.

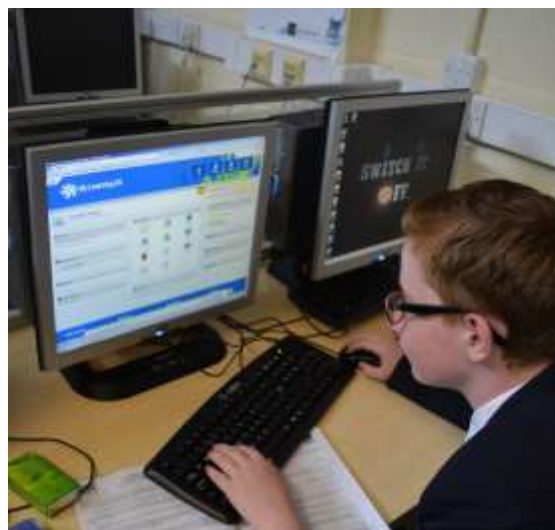
Our students have been absolutely tremendous in dealing with all the changes to school life they have encountered and, as staff, we would like to thank them for this. We do hope you enjoy half-term and thank you once again for your support of the school.

[Mrs Mawn—Assistant Headteacher]



Information you need to know about the VLE

- Every student has been given their unique login details. If students have any issues, they should see Mr Garavito.
- Year 7 parents have been sent Parent Portal login details. If you have not got these please let us know.
- We no longer send out paper-based reports. Parents will therefore need to access them electronically on the VLE via the Parent Portal.
- If a parent is unsure of their Parent Portal login details, then they should contact reception.



Be in it to win it!



Why not join our 200 Club? For just **£5** a month you have the opportunity of winning **£100** whilst donating to a very worthy cause – your child's school.

We currently have spare numbers available, so if you are interested or want any more information, please contact Mrs Donna Ayers, our 200 Club Administrator at donnaayers@bgn.oxon.sch.uk.

CONGRATULATIONS!

September's winner was number **154**

School information

Your School Nurse
Margaret Batsel

A confidential Service

- ◆ Relationships
- ◆ Health and Wellbeing
- ◆ Healthy Eating
- ◆ Puberty
- ◆ Mental & Emotional Health
- ◆ Drugs, Alcohol & Smoking Cessation

You can make an appointment by Telephone or Text on **07770 846882**

Come and see me in the school nurse's office or fill in an appointment slip on the school nurse's office door



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND PE KIT

Please could all individual items of uniform and PE kit have the student's full name inside so that if they are lost they can be easily returned

THANK YOU

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS

Thank you to all those parents who have returned the data collection sheets. If you have not done so please return via your child's form tutor.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF

Please remember that Addison Road **MUST NOT** be used to drop off or pick up students at the start and end of the school day. This is a site access road only to be used when parking on the school grounds during the day and **MUST NOT** be used for access after 5pm.

YEAR 7 FLU VACCINATIONS

These will take place on Monday 9 November. Please ensure you have completed the online consent by Thursday 5 November. Consent information can be found on the school website under: our school/letters home/year 7.

Thank you

Attendance



If your child has to be absent from school due to a Covid-related reason, please keep the school informed when a test has been taken and the result of the test as soon as you have received the result.

Sickness

Please notify the Attendance Officer on 01295 264216 extension 518 or email: absence@bgn.oxon.sch.uk **by 9.30 am each day** of your child's absence. As duty of care to students is paramount to us, should we not hear from you we will send a text to remind you to contact the school regarding your child's absence. If we still have not heard from you by 10 am as to why your child is absent, we will telephone you as student welfare is a priority. Any unexplained absences will be marked as unauthorised.

Prolonged illness

Unless requested, we do not normally need to see medical evidence for absences for illness. However, if your child is away from school for an illness which means they miss school for five or more days, we do require medical evidence such as a doctor's appointment card. Should your child have prolonged periods of time absent due to ongoing illness a letter from the doctor is required stating clearly that the student is unfit for school.

