



Archbishop Blanch
—SCHOOL—

Archbishop Blanch School

Voluntary Aided Church of England High School
80 Earle Road, Liverpool L7 6HQ

Tel: 0151 330 5151 **Email:** admin@blanch.org.uk

Web: www.abblanch.com **Twitter:** @abblanchschool

Headteacher: Mrs C Madeloso BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, MA

11 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you all well as we come to terms with another full lockdown, which includes school closures.

So far, the guidance on the cancellation of the summer examinations is very limited, though we understand there will be much more gathering of evidence and moderation in comparison to last year. It is therefore critical that all students remain fully engaged with their learning as the knowledge and skills developed will also be vitally important for their next steps.

HOMELEARNING

All lessons are being set online for students to access. Students who are in school access the same work as all of those who are working from home. Staff are working extremely hard to create high quality resources for all lessons and will continue to develop resources over the forthcoming weeks. We do expect all work to be completed by all students.

From Monday 11 January, Years 10 - 13 will have live lessons in all subjects with registers being taken within the first 10 minutes of the lesson. From Monday 18 January, all classes in all year groups will have a register within the first 10 minutes of the lesson. If your son / daughter is unable to attend any lesson, please inform school using the usual absence procedures. We understand that "home schooling" is not always easy! Sometimes you may not be able to attend lessons at the exact time, but we really want to support students who are struggling to engage. Taking a register helps us to see who may need a call, some support or resources. If you need help from anyone at school, please do let us know.

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION

Many of you have requested support regarding devices that can be used to support learning. Before the Christmas break, we ordered more laptops from the DfE, we are still waiting for delivery of them. When we receive those resources in school, we will be able to distribute them according to need. iPads, tablets and other devices can also be used to support home learning.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

To support students during the closure of school, we will be conducting weekly collective worship for all year groups as well as regular form sessions. This will allow students to come together, discuss issues and concerns and tell us about the things that are going well. Many of us struggle with lockdown, anxieties and emotions. This is very normal and we hope that through the group sessions support networks will be generated. Year 11 found these sessions to be particularly useful and we hope all students will feel the same.

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CARE PACKAGES

During the previous lockdown, we were able to support families who needed help with care packages. As we are offering so many live lessons, we are a little more limited with time; however if you feel that you would benefit from a care package, please do let us know. We would also like to offer support to families who are struggling to access devices to support home learning, so if you have any old laptops, iPads, tablets etc, please let us know if you could donate them to school. Our IT staff will ensure they are fully wiped and appropriate software installed in order for them to go to good homes where they will be well used.

STUDENT WELLBEING

Of course, we are equally concerned about the wellbeing and safeguarding of our students. [The Safeguarding and Wellbeing](#) page on our website has resources to support the safety and mental health of pupils and parents. Also on this page are resources to support students with SEND. I would like to particularly draw your attention to [Kooth](#), an online mental health service commissioned by Liverpool CAMHS, and the Safer Schools App, which I encourage you to download as it provides updated information on keeping your child safe online; joining instructions are attached to this email.

REPORTING COVID CASES

Although school is closed, we are still keeping records of all positive Covid cases. If your daughter/son tests positive for Covid or needs to self-isolate, please inform us using the Covid email address: C19lead@blanch.org.uk.

It is important to remind all families who are currently sending children to school that the whole household must be in full health and not have any Covid symptoms. If anyone is waiting for a Covid test result, the household must self-isolate.

APPLYING FOR A PLACE AS A CRITICAL WORKER

A survey will be sent out each week to access a place in school. This must be completed to gain a place as seating plans, equipment and staffing must be determined in advance.

Finally, I would remind you to look at our twitter and Instagram accounts to stay up to date with information about our school. Please do let us know if we can support with home learning and let us know of any issues you may be facing at home.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

C Madeloso

Mrs C Madeloso
Head Teacher