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# Remote Learning

*Thank you for your support! Over 90% of BOA students are now engaging well with our remote learning programme and meeting our expectations.*

## An important milestone

As the May half-term break approaches (25th -29th May), we find ourselves at an important milestone in what has been an extraordinary academic year.

Over the past fortnight the focus at BOA has been on two key areas. For year 11 and 13, we have been working on formulating the GCSE and A'Level centre assessment grades (predictions), collating evidence and conducting quality assurance. For years 10 and 12 our focus has been on measuring and improving student engagement with our remote learning programme.

Last week came a pair of highly anticipated educational announcements. The first was from the government; stating that if all goes to plan over the coming weeks, they will stagger the opening of primary schools from 1st of June but will not be asking the same of secondary schools. It was also suggested that our year 10 and 12 pupils might get some face-to-face time with their teachers before the summer, which would be fantastic.

The second important announcement was from our awarding body for the BTEC pathway qualifications, who finally shared instructions as to how BTEC unit and qualification grades will be awarded this summer and what we will need to provide to make this happen.

With these revelations in mind, our focus this week shifts to making and quality assuring our BTEC centre assessment judgements, and also reflecting upon our remote learning programme and defining its shape for when we return in June knowing we are now very unlikely to be permitted to open the academy to all pupils in the immediate future.

For next week, we have taken the decision not to ask teachers to set any work for students over the half-term break, and to step back from parental and student communications during that time. This will allow our teachers to focus exclusively on the grading quality assurance process, as our first deadline falls during the first week of June. It will also give students a break and an invaluable opportunity to catch up with any outstanding work.



## REMOTE LEARNING CONTINUES

Our teachers set remote learning tasks for every subject, every week for year 10 and 12. You can view the weekly overview for each subject by visiting [www.boa-online.co.uk/remote-learning](http://www.boa-online.co.uk/remote-learning) every Monday morning. During the week teachers are running online workshops, drop-ins and surgeries, and are always there to support teachers and parents via email.

Year 11 and 13 students who would like to complete some bridging work in preparation for their next steps should contact their teachers who will provide them with a range of tasks and activities, which they can work through at their own pace.

The last page of this bulletin also contains links to additional online resources suitable for all ages.



# Assessment Update

*Pearson made an important announcement last week that affects all BOA students studying the BTEC pathways.*

## Update regarding summer 2020 BTEC examinations and assessments.

### What is the BTEC awarding process and how will it affect BOA students?

This week our awarding body (Pearson) confirmed that they intend to calculate and award grades for all the units our students would have completed this year (both external exams and internal assessments). This affects all year groups at BOA and will ensure that our leavers (year 11 & 13) will receive the full qualification they need to progress, and that our first-year students (year 10 & 12) will be able to start their second year of study in September with no disadvantage.

To facilitate this, we have been asked to provide our awarding body with three key pieces of information:

1. Grades for units which have been completed and fully assessed.
2. Centre assessed grades (predictions) for any units planned this academic year, which have not yet been assessed.
3. A ranking of all students on the same specification.

Over the past weeks/months we have been preparing for this very scenario and are well under way with both making our judgments and conducting quality assurance.

### What about the BTEC work students have been doing remotely?

Although students will be awarded grades for all units under this system (whether completed or not), up until now we have been encouraging our learners to complete unit work where it has already been started. This is because we have wanted to give them a chance to bank as many completed units as possible this year.



Yesterday our deadline for submitting judgements to the awarding body was announced. We must submit the required information by 5<sup>th</sup> of June.

As a result, you will find that over the coming days teachers will begin to ask students to submit anything they are currently working on, whether completed or not. This is so we have time to assess the work and adjust any centre assessment grades (predictions) as appropriate before our deadline.

**Year 11 and 13 learners.** If you are currently still working on a BTEC individual action plan or completing assignments, you teachers will be in touch to ask you to send us anything you are working on (whether finished or not) as soon as possible and by a fixed deadline. After that there is nothing more you can be doing towards your qualification, but do email your teacher if you would like some bridging work or activities to be doing to prepare for sixth form, university, work or any other future plans you may have.

**Year 10 and 12 learners.** If you are currently working on tasks for a BTEC assignment that was due to be submitted this academic year, then your teachers will in touch in the coming days to ask you send us anything you are working on (whether finished or not) by a fixed deadline. Rest assured the awarding body have promised to award you a fair unit grade for all the projects you would have completed this year, whether you have quite finished the work or not. However, your remote learning programme *will* continue! From this point forward, you will notice the BTEC tasks and activities your teachers will be setting will begin to focus on critical skills building and preparation for units scheduled for next year.

## GCSE & A'LEVEL ASSESSMENT



Our teachers have finished making their initial centre assessment judgements and have now agreed rankings for all our GCSE and A'Level candidates. We have also completed two rounds of quality assurance and scrutiny. Over the half-term break teams will be challenged to go through every student's profile again one by one, reviewing evidence and justifying decisions. At the same time we will conduct a statistical analysis, which may drive further review.

From the 1st June we will be in a position to submit our judgements to the exam boards. From that point forward we do not expect to have any further involvement in the awarding and grading process, and will not hear anything until the results days in August.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are not permitted to share our judgements with students or parents.

**Please remember that our teachers are not permitted to discuss pupils' centre assessed grades or rankings.**



# Have your **SAY**

## Student Engagement

*Thank you for your support! Over 90% of students are now engaging well with our remote learning programme and meeting our expectations.*

Our teachers have been keeping an ongoing record of how well students have engaged with the remote learning programme. Two weeks ago, we reviewed student engagement tracking in detail at an academy level. We were pleased to find that over 85% of students were engaging well with the programme and broadly meeting our expectations. Whilst we know many schools would be very happy with figures like these, our mission has been, and continues to be to ensure that *all* our students make as much progress as is fair to expect during these unprecedented times.

Therefore, our review triggered some change of internal policy, approach, and some specific actions. For example:

- The Principal has written personally to students and parents to celebrate outstanding achievement, but also to offer support where we have noticed learners might be facing significant difficulties.
- We have now put into place safeguards and systems that allow our teachers to contact parents and carers directly from home via the telephone. This means that teachers have been able to contact parents where emails were not working, and offer support, guidance and resources.
- Our pastoral team and SENCO have been intervening where learners and families have needed an extra level of regular support and assistance to help them overcome the various barriers many are faced with in these extra-ordinary times.
- Teaching teams have reflected on the tasks they have been setting, the resources they provide, and the form feedback takes. As a result they have begun to adapt their approaches and adjust expectations to ensure those students who have found working remotely difficult are given accessible tasks and useful feedback.
- After significant successful pilots in the creative, digital and performing pathways you may also notice this week that all subjects are beginning to offer weekly video-based live drop-in lessons of some kind.

As a result of these measures and more, we have been very pleased to see an increased engagement with the remote learning programme (now well over 90%). **We would like to say a massive thank you to parents, carers and pupils for engaging so positively with the programme.**

However, we will not stop here. These actions, now established, will continue moving forward. But also, the half-term break will give us a chance to take stock and think about how we can enhance the programme even further, and perhaps even bring learners in to BOA for some face to face time later in the term. Therefore, we are launching a short parent and pupil consultation today to find out which elements of the programme you have felt work best, and what you would like to see more of in the future.

Unfortunately for a number of reasons, including safeguarding, resourcing, quality assurance and access, we cannot permit our teachers to tutor pupils 1-to-1 over the telephone or video (except in exceptional circumstances and where they have been specially trained). In the same way we cannot offer full school days of live streaming lesson content. But beyond that we are open to all suggestions and our teachers are keen to be trying new things.

[TAKE THE PARENT/CARER SURVEY](#)

[TAKE THE STUDENT SURVEY](#)



# Online **LINKS**

## The latest list

Here is a list of free online learning resources which have landed in the academy inbox. We hope they will be useful to students, parents, carers, and those of you have family members or friends with younger children.

### Ks4 & Post-16

- NEW: [Government List of Approved Resources](#)
- NEW: [Barclays Life Skills](#)
- NEW: [EtonX Future Skills Programme](#). Research Skills (for y13), Writing Skills (for yr11). Watch your emails for login details.
- NEW: [Rosetta Stone](#) free 3 month language courses.
- NEW: [The Oak National Academy](#) has been set up specifically to support students (up to year 10) and teachers during the pandemic.
- Senica Learning: [SENICA LEARNING – GCSE & A'LEVEL](#)
- BBC Bitesize [BBC BITESIZE \(GCSE and younger\)](#)
- Gráinne Hallahan. Secondary English resources thread. [ENGLISH RESOURCES](#)
- Have a look at the teacher and parent resources the [Khan Academy](#) have put together:
- Visit some online museums: [MUSEUMS](#)
- Actively Learn has made all of its resources for students and parents free for the rest of the school year: [ACTIVELYLEARN](#)
- Douglas Wise GCSE English remote learning packs: [ENGLISH RESOURCES](#)
- Success at School have created a careers action plan for students and parents. [Click here to download it](#). You can also [sign up](#) for emails.
- For those wanting to better themselves and try something new, try <https://www.shawacademy.com/> and <https://www.futurelearn.com/>
- For live streaming theatre productions and shows visit [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).



### Younger children

- Teachwire Year 1 Pack: [Year 1](#)
- Teachwire Year 2 Pack: [Year 2](#)
- Teachwire Year 3/4 Pack: [Year 3/4](#)
- Teachwire Year 5/6 Pack: [Year 5/6](#)
- Joe-Wicks – Live streaming PE at 9am (there are fitness coaching videos for adults too!). [Body Coach TV YouTube channel](#)
- David Walliams free audio stories. A new story every day: [Check here each day for a new story](#).
- Hand-washing science experiment: [Check out the full experiment, here](#).
- Free kids books aged 3-11: [Browse the virtual bookshelves here](#).
- The Institute of Physics has put together a document linking to Ks3 science resource. [CLICK HERE](#)
- Teach It English is offering free access to all its resources until the end of April (Ks2 and 3). [Sign up for free resources here](#).

