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Headteacher Miss Lynn Black



Dear Parent/Carer,

As of Wednesday 18th March the number of teaching and support staff self-isolating has increased again, but not significantly.

The atmosphere in school is very positive and teaching staff are working hard to ensure on-line learning is available for S3 students working at home today. The majority of senior phase classes are being covered by a subject specialist, however, where this is not the case the teacher is either in contact with the class via Edmodo or Glow, or work has been provided by the subject specialist.

A reminder of the year group rotation for home working this week is as follows;

- **Wednesday 18th March S3**
- **Thursday 19th March S2**
- **Friday 20th March S1**

We are already planning for next week and we will update you again tomorrow with our contingency plans for week commencing 23rd March.

You will appreciate we are receiving a high volume of telephone calls and this is putting pressure on our reduced number of front-line clerical staff. If possible we would ask that you email any non-urgent queries to our school email address – Beeslack.hs@midlothian.gov.uk to allow clerical staff to respond to urgent calls. We will do our best to respond to your queries as soon as we can.

As you can imagine there are staffing pressures across the authority and as a result the catering service are offering a reduced service from today. There will be soup, sandwiches, fruit, home-baking and drinks available at lunchtime, however, at this time it is not possible to provide the array of hot meals that would normally be on offer.

For pupils who are in receipt of EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) a separate communication has been sent out to parents/carers of those concerned.

In our update yesterday, we asked if you would complete an online form for us to help give us an understanding of which pupils are able to access technology at home. Many thanks to those of you who have completed this as we have already had over 200 responses. For those of you yet to complete this the link is included below for information.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKc707PKFeo9LubN3D64Pib9UN0hKS1JOR0pHRVYzQ0NSNzdKNzM1Nk01WS4u>

In these challenging times I am reminded of one of the strengths of Beeslack Community High school, the positivity, the concern for others and above all the positive relationships being demonstrated between all members of the community. S1 pupils were making cards to send to elderly residents in our community who may not be able to contact friends and family at this time.

Many thanks again for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely



Lynn Black