



SIR WILLIAM BORLASE'S  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# COVID Report

Teaching and Learning and Catch-Up  
(including catch-up spending)

Updated September 2021



*Inspire  
Empower  
Shape The Future*

## **Learning during the Pandemic at Sir William Borlase's Grammar School**

### **March 2020 - July 2020**

When the government announced that schools were going into lockdown on March 20th 2020 the school leadership team established its priorities and approach and agreed these with governors.

#### **Key Priorities**

- i) To enable all children to keep learning while staying safe.
- ii) To keep the school community together and in contact with one another.
- iii) To support staff and enable them to stay safe.
- iv) To support parents and keep them informed about developments.

It was the school's aim to support the wellbeing of all members of the school community, maintaining a sense of togetherness; the regular routine of attending school and the rhythm of the school day to give purpose and structure to the daily lives of everyone. We did this in the knowledge that this would not only support our community in lockdown but make returning to school easier when it was safe to do so.

#### **Virtual Platform**

The school was already using Google Education tools and as a BYOD (Bring your own Device) school, all students were used to bringing their own chromebook or laptop to school. This included PP students and Bursary students for whom arrangements were made on joining school.

The Deputy Headteacher had identified the additional technology needed to become fully virtual just prior to the announcement and had ordered visualisers to be issued to all staff to improve online teaching and learning from home for all pupils.

On Friday, March 20th, all teachers and learning support staff were issued with visualisers and those who needed access to a personal computer at home were issued with a school computer. The Deputy Head identified further resource needs and ordered these.

The SENco identified any children who did not have access to a personal computer/ laptop in good working order to ensure they were given a school device until new devices were available for them.

On Monday, March 21st the staff undertook a day and evening of live and online training to prepare for teaching and offering pastoral and wellbeing support through the virtual platform.



## **Borlase@home**

Borlase@home opened to all students on Tuesday, March 22nd with live lessons and live tutor time. It was agreed that through Borlase@home the school would:

- register every student in tutor time every morning at 8.40 a.m.
- follow-up any absenteeism with a contact from learning support/matron immediately.
- run the full timetable of lessons with timings adapted to recognise the challenges of screen times.
- adapt teaching and learning pedagogy through regular CPD
- prepare students for their forthcoming examinations (until these were cancelled)
- run virtual parent evenings
- run virtual options information and options evenings
- ensure pastoral and wellbeing support was available through safeguarded meetings with learning support
- ensure the DSL was accessible and able to follow up any concerns
- ensure all School Counsellor sessions continued and were available if there was further need.
- run Key Worker school on site with full access to wifi and Borlase@home.
- run our staff and sixth form mentoring programme to give extra support to children finding subjects difficult including some with SEND
- run extra curricular sport and exercise classes to encourage everyone to stay fit and healthy
- run other extra curricular groups as far as possible - academic societies thrived in this environment.
- support students in their applications and preparation for their next pathways.
- Ensure all the above took into account Safeguarding and KCSIE.

The school responded to feedback from staff, students and parents to adapt and improve systems.

As the period of lockdown continued other developments included:

- Virtual celebration events including VE Day, VJ Day, Prize Giving, Arts Dinner, Sports Dinner
- Virtual House Competitions
- Virtual community fundraising.
- Induction and introductory programmes
- Year 11 pre A Level programme
- University support including mock interviews and actual interviews
- Careers events
- Widening the Key worker school to include children who were finding lockdown challenging and those whose wifi was not wholly reliable.
- Further mentoring support for underachievement.



This list is not exhaustive. Some events can be seen on the Borlase official YOUTUBE channel which was used for sharing and celebrating events.

## **July 2020**

The school took the opportunity to bring years 12 and 10 into school under strict social distancing rules to have some live learning prior to the summer. The school conducted online assessments to assess how well students had been learning.

## **September 2020 - December 2021**

The school operated the full timetable and as many activities as were possible under strict systems of control in line with COVID 19 guidelines. This included:

- Separating the school into year group bubbles at all times
- Creating zones to enable this to happen
- Operating a 3 (long) lesson day to reduce movement. (Four week timetable)
- Making Borlase@home accessible to those in isolation.
- Managing positive cases and self isolation - students and staff
- Managing academic, sport and arts extracurricular with heightened hygiene and safety systems.

## **Curriculum**

Heads of Department revisited curriculum planning and sequencing to recognise what had been taught through Borlase@home and what could be taught on the return to school.

## **Covid Expenditure**

To operate the school under the required systems of control there was considerable expenditure on additional cleaning and hygiene measures; marquees to create additional zoned spaces; perspex to protect staff; technology to support learning in the classroom; ppe and a range of other systems. Significantly the cost of heating was significantly increased due to open windows and doors.

## **Covid Catch -Up Premium**

The school has received approximately £56,000 to support teaching and learning this year. This has been used to

Support great teaching : additional technology and training to support online pedagogy.

Additional Mental Health and Wellbeing Counselling



Additional wellbeing and enrichment to support transition back to school following second lockdown

Additional teaching support classes for Examination Groups in identified subjects

Additional after school Supporting Aspiration

Additional staffing to teach/ cover while teachers were in isolation

Additional Learning Mentor time to support academic and pastoral development

Summer Holiday small group tuition for targeted students (GCSE and A Level)

(Planned continuation of further tuition Autumn Term and October Half Term for identified students in all year groups)

External Assessment Programmes for Years 7 and 9 to identify gaps

Autumn Term Character Project - Year 7

Additional Specialist Teacher time

Additional Supervised Private Study for Sixth Form guided study

### **Assessment**

The school took the opportunity to have live AFL and topic tests for students and Year 11 had the opportunity to sit mock examinations.

Assessment indicated that the students had broadly sustained expected levels of progress during lockdown and the autumn term. Support after school and Raising Aspiration continued for those who needed it.

### **January 2021–March 8th 2021**

The school was prepared for the second lockdown and was able to start Borlase@home on the first day of term with lessons learned from the first experience. Additional foci included:

- Adapting the planning and sequencing of the curriculum again.
- Examination preparation for Years 11 and 13, responding to the changes in systems and requirements as they were presented
- Significant communication and wellbeing support of Years 11 and 13 and communication with parents as guidance changed
- Significant additional work staff relating to assessments for Year 11 and 13
- Increased counselling for wellbeing and mental health
- A Larger Key/Critical worker school with more vulnerable pupils and Year 7 and 8 children attending as they needed the structure and support of attending school.
- Sports coaches on site for KWS daily exercise
- Online AFL managed sensitively to keep abreast of progress while not putting pressure on students
- Adapting reporting to recognise challenging situation



- More teachers teaching Borlase@home “from school” following challenges of the first lockdown.

### **March 8th 2021 - July 2021**

The school set up a test centre and tested every child twice before the start of term to enable every child to return to school on March 8th. On return to school we continued with the adapted school day and strict systems of control until the Easter break. Additional foci included:

- Adapting the planning and sequencing of the curriculum again.
- Adapting assessment to identify gaps.
- Very significant teacher and leadership workload related to the cancellation of externally set and marked examinations for Years 11 and 13.
- Years 11 and 13 completed their courses and were assessed via teacher-set assessments managed as formal examinations. Internal quality control, marking, moderation and standardisation processes were robust and highly time-consuming.
- Assessment of all students to inform teaching and learning approach for the next academic year and to guide summer working/ action plans.
- additional academic support put in place where identified as immediate need.
- Combined Science set created for start of next academic year - Year 11
- Extra support teaching built into some A Level lessons for next academic year
- Summer support sessions July and September for identified students in Years 11 and 13
- Extra Autumn sessions planned for identified students in all years.
- October Half Term sessions for identified students planned - we will have an up to date picture of progress at this point.
- Additional school counselling put in from summer term.
- Additional learning mentor time put in from summer term.
- Subsidised wellbeing activities to help students reintegrate back into school in spring.
- Our usual Summer School (4 days) for incoming Year 7 including a wide range of transition activities Maths, Literacy, MFL, History, Music, Drama, Dance, Sport (We do this each year for transition)
- The school will continue to monitor need.

### **September 2021-July 2022**

- Director of Academic Studies is working in collaboration with Heads of Key Stage and Year, and HODs to identify needs through ongoing assessment.
- Targeted tutoring is being put in place where need is identified.
- We will continue to use Tutoring companies known to the school and current teachers known to the school.
- Sixth Form Mentoring Programme.
- Increased Supporting Aspiration support



- Additional supervised private study
- Guided learning action plans
- The school will review and respond to assessment information.





*Inspire  
Empower  
Shape The Future*





*Inspire  
Empower  
Shape The Future*