

9th February 2021

Parent Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to personally thank you all for your continued support this half term whilst we are in a national lockdown. We are awaiting an update after half term following the announcement that schools could reopen from the 8th March 2021, if we continue to make progress. We are expecting two weeks' notice before the school would reopen. Therefore, I can confirm that the first two weeks after half term will continue to be our 'live' remote learning programme until we receive further updates. We will then focus on a longer term plan to catch up where needed and make up for any gaps in learning.

Please note that there is no provision during half term; we would like all parents and students to have a well-earned break.

Free School Meals

We are continuing to supply vouchers to all students who qualify for free school meals, through the national voucher scheme during term time. In addition, Asda vouchers will be provided to families for the half term break.

Remote Learning

Since my last update we have taken further steps to ensure we support our entire school community during this period of remote learning, by creating a dedicated page on the website: <https://www.castleviewenterpriseacademy.co.uk/the-academy/remote-learning-information-and-guidance/>. This page includes a range of useful documents and information about our current remote learning provision and advice around health and well-being during these challenging times.

Many parents completed our remote learning survey and we are overwhelmed with the positive feedback. We are pleased that you and your child are finding our 'live' lessons an excellent learning experience during this lockdown period. We are monitoring engagement on a weekly basis and informing parents where there are any issues or where students have been outstanding!

Just as a reminder, our class charts coding during lockdown is as follows:

- **Green** - Attendance to Teams AND work submitted
- **Yellow** - Attendance to Teams only
- **Blue** - Work submitted only (this is used as extenuating circumstances also)
- **Red** - No attendance to Teams or work submitted

N.B. work submission may show as yellow until the end of the day when the teacher checks to turn it to green

All students and parents have access to check engagement through the submission of work and the attendance to lessons. If you don't have access to Class Charts please email enquiries@cvea.co.uk

Breakfast Provision

Healthy breakfast provisions of FREE cereal and bagels are available for collection Monday-Friday between 1-3pm from main reception. This is open to ALL students and parents and I really hope you all access this fantastic opportunity. You can access this provision as much as you need to throughout the lockdown period or while stocks last.

Parents' Evenings

Owing to the current COVID restrictions, we are acutely aware that we have been unable to hold parents' evenings in the usual way. We recognise how much you value the importance of good communication between the Academy and home, so we investigated several solutions to remedy this need. In January, we held our very first 'virtual' parents' evening with Year 8. The evening was hosted by School Cloud; parents and carers were invited to create a schedule of video appointments with their child's teachers, each lasting five minutes, using their mobile phone. This meant that appointments could be made to suit the parent's availability and completely removed the need to queue up. In a post-event survey, 100% of parents reported that the system was simple to arrange appointments and to attend the parents' evening video calls. In addition, 83% of parents requested that this model be used for future events. Following the success of this event, we look forward to holding more virtual parents' evening in March and April with Years 11, 10 and 9.

Year 11

Year 11 mock results were sent out via email to parents last week. Several students have been in contact already regarding these.

It is important to understand the reasons for mock exams. They are used to give us an idea of where students are, at a given time, and provide students with the information on what topics they need to improve upon to better their grades. The mock grades aren't defining and they can improve dramatically. The only way to do that though, is for students to attend their 'live' lessons and submit high-quality work to back it up.

The DfE consultation on the grading process ended on the 29th January 2021. We will hopefully get some clarification soon on how the process will work. Parents can be assured that we will contact them as soon as possible after the release of this information. A Year 11 parents' evening will also be arranged shortly, after we have digested the results of the consultation, to give parents the opportunity to talk to the relevant subject teachers.

Extra-Curricular

During remote learning we feel it is more important than ever to offer students a broad extra-curricular programme to support, and allow them to pursue, their individual interests. Please see the virtual extra-curricular programme on offer for students and their families to get involved in using this link: <https://www.castleviewenterprisecademy.co.uk/latest-news/cvea-virtual-extra-curricular-programme-2021/>. The specific details of each club or activity are emailed directly to the students' school email accounts.

World Book Day

World Book Day this year will be virtual, to celebrate books and stories we know and love. The English Department will become **The Masked Readers** - each member of staff will wear a virtual mask and read an extract from one of their favourite books. These videos will be released each day leading up to World Book Day and then, on Thursday 4th March 2021, a Forms quiz will be emailed to all students. They will be asked to guess who is behind the mask.

Other important dates:

22-02-21 to 26-02-21 Empathy Week
01-03-21 to 05-03-21 National Careers Week
08-03-21 Science Careers Week

Assessment Weeks:

Week beginning 22nd February - Year 10 spring assessments
Week beginning 1st March - Year 9 spring assessments
Week beginning 8th March - Year 8 spring assessments

Yours sincerely

J. Owens

Mrs J Owens
Head of School

