

December 2021

Parent Update

Dear Parent / Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all parents/carers for their support this term, which hasn't been the easiest given COVID-19 is still impacting upon the normal running of the school. I wanted to provide you with some important updates as we approach the Christmas break to ensure you are kept informed.

Last Day of Term

On the last day of term, we will have our usual fun activities for students. There will be the Runaround game for each year group in the hall, followed by a quiz and Christmas bingo over Teams, during an extended form period, facilitated by an earlier 'brunch'. Students have completed a questionnaire and have voted for the meal choice. There will be a phased dismissal from 1.35pm. Students can also wear their Christmas jumpers all day, there will be a collection during the day or payments can be made on the School App, for Save the Children charity. The suggested donation is £1.00.

Sunderland Foodbank

We would like to thank all of the members of our Academy community – students, parents, staff and governors – who have, once again, generously donated to our foodbank appeal. Last year we delivered over 750 kilograms of food to the foodbank in Sunderland.

Support for Independent Learning

At Castle View Enterprise Academy, we regularly promote the importance of independent learning at home. In September all subject areas created a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) on Microsoft Teams. This resource provides your child with access to all lessons and revision material across the academic year outside of normal lessons. The VLE runs parallel to a range of websites which some departments use for homework. With such an investment to support the learning of all of our students, it is vital that all students can access this resource. If you need additional support to access these materials online by loaning a device or internet, then please contact our enquiries email, enquiries@cvea.co.uk.

Snow Plan

We have updated our snow procedures and would like to operate the following;

- 7.00 a.m. A decision will be taken to close or open the Academy.
- 7.30 a.m. The Academy will send out a text message to all parents who have signed up for the service. A message will also be displayed on our website.
- 8.10 a.m. If we are open the gates will be opened and all students will be brought immediately into the Academy via the main entrance to avoid any health and safety risks.
- 8.40 a.m. onwards All students will stay inside the Academy building for break and lunch to avoid any health and safety issues in the inclement weather.

In times of **heavy snow**, we propose to dismiss year 7 and year 8 students about 15 minutes earlier than the normal time and year 9 approximately ten minutes earlier. This will give parents /carers more time to park and then leave to avoid severe congestion. Year 10 and year 11 will leave at our normal finish times. Any student who needs to wait for an older sibling can do so in the main reception area. Hopefully, this will address any health and safety issues and ensure all students have a safe exit from the Academy. If there are any problems with this please contact us.

January on-site Testing Arrangements

The government has asked all secondary schools to prepare to test all consenting students once on the school premises on return in the first week in January. This is to be followed by one LFD self-test at home 3-4 days after. After this, students should continue twice-weekly testing at home in line with government guidelines. Testing is voluntary, but students are strongly encouraged to participate.

Contact Tracing and Isolation

The current guidance remains and students who are close contacts of those testing positive do NOT need to self-isolate, but will be advised to take a PCR test. We continue to encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

However, all individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of Covid-19, irrespective of vaccination status or age, will be contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace and informed of this. They will then be required to self-isolate immediately for ten days and book a PCR test.



Face Coverings

Face coverings should continue to be worn indoors by students for the remainder of this term, unless they are exempt. They must also be worn on school buses and public transport, as well as in local shops.

We appreciate your continued co-operation with this and request that you ensure your child comes to school each day with a suitable face covering. If your child is unable to wear a face covering for medical reasons, please let us know via enquiries@cvea.co.uk.

Vaccinations

The advice from the NHS is that vaccines are the best defence against Covid-19. The immunisation team has already visited the Academy so, if your child is aged 12 or over and you now wish for them to be vaccinated, then you can book a vaccination using the NHS website. Those aged 16 years or over will be offered appointments for a second dose, from 12 weeks after the 1st dose.

Testing

Please can you continue to encourage your child to complete twice-weekly LFD testing at home. In the event of a positive LFD test, it is important that your child does not come into the Academy and that you book a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible. Whilst awaiting a confirmatory PCR result, your child should continue to self-isolate.

We have lots of LFD home test kits in stock for your child over the coming weeks, as the government has asked us to ensure they have sufficient at home to cover the school holiday period and the first week back in January. If you require further tests please email enquiries@cvea.co.uk or call into reception to collect one.

Visitors to the School Site

As previously outlined we ask that parents/carers only come on site if pre-arranged, and that a face covering is worn unless exempt.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you all for your continued support this term. Please be assured that we will continue to take a sensible and cautious approach, and are committed to working closely with our local Public Health team. We hope that the additional measures implemented do not need to be extended beyond the remainder of this term; however, I will write to you before the term starts in January.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs J Owens

Principal

