

October 2021

## Parent Update

Dear Parent / Carer,

I would like to personally thank all parents / carers for your continued support this half term. As you are aware COVID-19 remains to be prevalent amongst both staff and students. I will keep you updated with any additional measures we need to implement in line with further guidance from the DfE.

### Message from the Secretaries of State

We know that children and young people have been hugely affected by the pandemic, both in terms of their education and their ability to socialise and participate in activities that benefit them outside of formal education.

We want to thank you as parents and carers of secondary school and college students for your support over the last eighteen months. We know this time has been difficult for many of you, as well as for the young people you care for.

As students return to the classroom, we would ask for your continued support to make sure your children are able to stay in face-to-face learning, by encouraging them to:

- test themselves for COVID-19 twice a week, and more frequently if they are specifically asked to do so. This way, we can find individuals who have the virus but are not showing symptoms, and stop them from passing it on to others.
- come forward for the COVID-19 vaccine. This is one of the best things young people can do to protect themselves and those around them.

We know that students have missed a lot of time in school and college since the pandemic started, and that there is no substitute for face-to-face learning. Keeping students in the classroom in the coming months is therefore a Government priority, both for their immediate and longer-term wellbeing.

### Attendance

As the new Secretary of State for Education has made clear, young people regularly attending school is a national priority and is important for their education, wellbeing, and long-term development. This is particularly true for children who were persistently absent before the pandemic or who are at risk of becoming persistently absent. Attendance continues to be mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and schools should communicate clear and consistent expectations about attendance.

## Free School Meal Vouchers

CVEA is supporting the local government Free School Meal voucher scheme for £15 per child, per week to all eligible pupils over the October half term. The eligibility and process is the same as previous holidays, ASDA vouchers are available for collection from reception.

## Queen's Platinum Jubilee Day

As this day falls in our May half term, staff are entitled to an additional day during term time. The DfE has amended the Education Regulations to reduce the school year from 190 days to 189 days. We have chosen **Monday 29 November 2021**, therefore on this date students will not be in school. Please make appropriate childcare arrangements where necessary.

## COVID-19 Vaccinations

We are awaiting confirmation from the Sunderland School Aged Immunisation Service about further delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination for everyone who did not have the opportunity to receive the vaccination on site. Further information will be shared as soon as it is available. We will provide catch-up for those who had consent and would like the vaccination but missed it on the day. They are also planning to vaccinate Year 11 students who are 15 years of age.

Students who are 16 are advised can go and get one by finding a location on the grab and jab website:

[Find a walk-in coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination site - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

## Lateral Flow test Kits

We have a stock of home testing kits in school. If you require one of these please let us know and they can be collected from reception.

## Remote Learning

We are determined at CVEA that all students will be able to continue to learn during any form of absence from the Academy. The remote learning curriculum we have carefully designed will provide both teachers and students with a valuable educational medium that can continue to connect all parts of our learning community, to enable us to continue to deliver a high-quality education for the students we serve. The main platform used for the setting and delivery of all remote learning will be through a blended use of Class Charts and Microsoft Teams. We have recently development department virtual learning environments, where students will have access to all the necessary resources, they need to support their learning from home. Students have received training in the Academy and updated resources have been added to our remote learning page on the Castle View Enterprise Academy website. Please access the remote learning page using the link below to explore our remote learning offer and to find out how you can support your child/children from home.

<https://www.castleviewenterpriseacademy.co.uk/the-academy/remote-learning-information-and-guidance/>



## Uniform

Our students have returned to the Academy at the start of the new academic year looking extremely smart. Thank you for your support with this. You will be aware that our uniform expectations have now returned to the standards we had pre-Covid. This means that there should be no black sweatshirts or any additional non-uniform clothing worn around the Academy. Students must also change before and after PE lessons. In addition to this, parents and carers are reminded that we promote 'smart, business-like and tidy appearance'. To this end, please ensure that your child adheres to the following.

- No skinny/stretchy/tight trousers to be worn by any students in the Academy.
- Plain black and sensible shoes which can be polished must be worn.
- Jewellery and piercings are not allowed.

Full details of our uniform policy can be found on the website. Whilst students will sometimes try to bend the rules around uniform, they will always be challenged and parents / carers informed. We would appreciate your support if you need to be contacted regarding your child's uniform or appearance.

It is important that our students understand what it takes to be a successful independent learner. In order that there is a link between home and school learning, it is essential that all students carry a plain black bag, and a file in which to store any work that needs to be transported to and from the Academy. Students are aware of this requirement, but we will be monitoring this closely from the start of the next half term.

If you have any questions or queries, don't hesitate to email us at [enquiries@cvea.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cvea.co.uk) and we will direct your query to the most relevant person. Parent/Carers need to make an appointment via our website enquiries or by telephone if they wish to see a member of staff on site, rather than just arriving at reception.

Please stay safe and enjoy the half term break.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs J Owens

Principal

