

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Since I last wrote to you on the 1st January things have moved apace and by now we'll all have taken in the implications of the Prime Minister's announcement. Firstly can I assure you that as with every other school we are not 'closed'. We are very much open but mostly in a virtual manner. The priority is your child's wellbeing and learning. My staff and I want to ensure that as far as possible the next six weeks are as normal as possible for your child and that the routine of lessons continues.

As a parent of children, all in secondary school, I very much appreciate and empathise with you. The thought of six plus weeks without children going into school is worrying and for many of us a real challenge. However I am proud to say that our Remote Learning offer has been refined and significantly improved since the first lockdown in the spring. Indeed many of you said this was the case when we had to close for three days back in November.

Remote Learning

From tomorrow all students will be accessing Remote Learning from 8.40am.

Our remote learning plan has been made with our students in mind. We know that this strategy will work best for our community.

- Students are expected to continue to follow the routine of their academy timetable
- There will be a blended approach to learning online with some live elements, some pre-recorded content and some independent student activities
- Teachers are expected to be available to support students online during the timetabled schedule
- To ensure learning, teachers will direct student to complete tasks independently and submit it by specific deadlines
- We have outlined our expectations for students in our [Chelsea Academy Way for Remote Learning](#)
- We have a number of digital platforms available to help your child make progress or to simply share information at Chelsea Academy. Here is a [guide to accessing our digital systems](#).
- Guidance and support on our online platforms is available for students via the [Student CALC](#) and for parents/carers via the [Chelsea Academy Parent Portal](#)
- National Online Safety have shared a useful guide for parents/carers on supporting Remote Education at Home

IT provision / devices

If you feel you do not have sufficient devices in your household for your child(ren) to access Remote Learning, please contact your child's Head of Year so that we can best support you. We do not want this in any way to be a barrier to learning.

FSM

If you are eligible for benefits-related free school meals, from next week there will be a weekly voucher emailed to you for each child. This will come from an organisation called Wand.

Lateral Flow Testing

Thank you to those of you who have completed the consent form. Please do this as soon as possible even though most students will not attend the Academy until at least late February. This will allow us to record consent. It is likely that when all students return, schools will be asked to resume testing.

KWAVs

There will be a small number of staff and students on site every day. These students are eligible to be on site as they are identified as vulnerable, need to access learning on site or are the children of Critical Workers. They will follow the same online timetable as their peers are doing from home.

Y11/13 Examinations

We have emailed parents and students separately following today's announcements that exams will not take place. We are disappointed that this is the case and sadly have no further information about how and if, students will be assessed and graded.

LCCD

Please make your appointment in the normal way on the Parents Evening System for this virtual event on 21st (afternoon and evening appointments) and 22nd January (day time appointments).

We are all sad we find ourselves back in a national lockdown and I know that for some of you this will threaten your livelihoods and impact on the health and wellbeing of you and your family. For others it is a time when you can keep yourselves safer during this pandemic and maybe have a less frenetic pace of life. We want to do everything we can to ensure you feel supported in facilitating students' online learning so please get in touch if we can help you in any way.

Do join us in keeping our Academy community in all our prayers. We must hold tight and weather this storm as we have done before. Thank you for being supportive and being quick to respond to requests when we have asked for vital information.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Ardron
Principal