

Friday 15th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you have had a good week or so since we were last in contact. The news has been sobering for us all and a reminder that we must continue to do our bit and Stay at Home to protect each other.

We have been delighted with the way in which students have engaged with Remote Learning. A small number of students are coming into the Academy each day to access the same package of Remote Learning. We are grateful to those of you who, despite being eligible for a place, have kept your child at home. This means we can staff provision for those students who really do need to be at the Academy for their learning, wellbeing and safety.

Remote Learning

Since September we have shared with you our expectations for Remote Learning for both staff and students. The timetable is working well but in hearing feedback from both students and staff, we have decided to reduce the length of lessons to facilitate a wellbeing break between each lesson. This will also allow students 10 minutes between each lesson to take a break and step away from the screen for a short time. Next week we will publish on the website our Remote Learning commitment - something which the government has asked all schools to do. Below you will see the change in lesson timings and detail on the 'live' element of each lesson.

- All lessons will start at the normal times but will end after 45 minutes. E.g. P1 will be 9.00am to 9.45am, P2 will be 9.55am to 10.40am, Break from 10.40am to 11.10am, Period 3 will be 11.10am to 11.55am and so on. The wellbeing breaks will allow time for students to take a comfort break, upload any work & stretch their legs.
- Coaching time remains as currently: 8.40am - 9am.
- Staff have been asked to plan 15-20 mins of direct instruction/sharing of new content, a modelled example and allow students time to complete work independently. The 15-20 minutes might be live or pre recorded; it might take the form of a clip or video from another platform such as Oak Academy or BBC Bitesize.
- Staff are online for the lesson duration to respond to questions and check on learning.

Managing a routine for you and your child during lockdown

When you meet your child's Learning Coach next week they will go through the importance of an established routine for your child. Sometimes it is helpful to have a reminder of the need for routine, especially as it has been a while since the first lockdown. In addition the expectation of what schools should provide, and what students must do, have increased. We believe this is right but it does take some adjustment for us all! I know that as a parent my household had to readjust to three reluctant teenagers having to get up and be ready for home learning at 8.30am each day!

Do please share and encourage the importance of these actions with your child:

- **Have a routine:** try to stick to a regular sleeping pattern, set an alarm - doesn't snooze and don't stay in bed all day. You must attend every online lesson
- **Plan your day:** Check emails / GoogleClassroom at the start of each day. Check your timetable at the start of the day so you know what lessons you have and at what time
- **Balance out your day:** you need to make sure you have regular short breaks in between lessons
- **Break your work down into chunks** so that it is more manageable: make sure you use the lesson time allocated by your teacher for independent work effectively so that you are able to complete all the work set during the lesson time
- **Reward yourself** at the end of the day if you have completed all of your work / done everything on your 'to do' list
- **Try to do some form of exercise:** this can be done indoors (there are lots of great online workouts) or if you are able to, take your daily walk or run outside.
- **Do something that you enjoy:** it can be calling a friend, baking, gaming... anything that makes you feel happy.
- **Talk to us:** email your Learning Coach / Head of Year if you are struggling or need any support. We are here to help

[This checklist](#) from the Educational Endowment Foundation (EEF) is aimed for KS2/ KS3 students and you might find it helpful to share it with your child.

FSM vouchers

Some students are eligible for benefits related to free school meals (FSM). You will have received a schoolvoucher.com voucher this week. From next week we'll be moving to the government provider - Edenred. You will need to check your inbox for an emailed voucher from this organisation.

Lateral Flow Testing (LFT)

On Monday we started testing for all staff and students on site who provided consent. This has been a really successful process and so far we have had no positive cases as a result of the testing. This measure allows us to do our bit to reduce the transmission of the virus where individuals are asymptomatic. We will continue to test staff weekly but students will only be tested where they are identified as a close contact.

Parent prayer

I greatly enjoyed meeting some of you on the Parent Prayer meet last week. Thanks to Mr Richards, our Chaplain who led this meeting. It was also lovely to have one of our Governors, the Rev'd Sam Hole from St. Lukes' join us. Praying together is enormously comforting but also very purposeful as we face such challenging times.

LCCD– 21st & 22nd January

A reminder we have our Learning Coach Consultation Day coming up next week. Many of you have already made your virtual appointment. These are 20 mins long and an opportunity for us to see how your child is managing with Remote Education and discuss the latest progress checks.

Finally I wanted to share with you the sad death at the end of term of a former staff member, Mrs Onyemelukwe. She was a much liked and respected member of the SEN department. Our thoughts

and prayers are with her family at this time. The Academy was represented by a colleague at her funeral, and staff and any students that wanted to, were invited to write a message of condolence.

Your child may have shared with you that we always have a theme of the week; this week's theme as shared by Mr Richards is Identity, inspired by 1 Corinthians 12:27:

'Now you are the Body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it'.

At Chelsea Academy we are a family and we very much believe and cherish that everyone is valuable. Every single identity makes up our Chelsea Academy family. This family very much includes parents and carers, so Mr Richards has asked that if you would like to email him at tim.richards@chelsea-academy.org with any prayer requests he would be delighted to pray for you.

I hope you can find some time this weekend to rest and enjoy being together as a family. These are tough times and we know there are many weeks of lockdown still to go. We must hold tight and stick together to get through this. If you are struggling at this time please reach out to us as there may be ways in which we can help.

Yours faithfully



Mariella Ardron
Principal