



Ashton Community Science College

Headteacher: Miss S Asquith BA Hons, MA, NPQH

Aldwych Drive, Ashton,
Preston PR2 1SL

Tel: 01772 513002

Web: www.ashtoncsc.lancs.sch.uk

E-mail: enquiries@ashtoncsc.com

'a school to be proud of'

3th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers/Students

It feels strange to be writing to you at what is the end of the spring term, knowing that school has been closed for 2 weeks and the country is in lockdown.

As the Easter break begins, I would like to give you some updates and share some thoughts with you.

We say goodbye today to Dr Walmsley, who leaves us to take up headship at Central Lancaster High School. He has been at Ashton since the start of his teaching career and we are proud to have been with him on his journey from newly qualified teacher all those years ago to Headteacher now. We also say goodbye to Mr Turner, who retires from his post as technology technician. Mr Turner has been an unsung hero, turning his hand to anything practical that the school or the children needed. We wish them both well as they embark on the next part of the adventure that is life.

The situation regarding Coronavirus is changing daily, but for the foreseeable future, schools remain closed to all but a small number of children. The burden of home learning has fallen onto students, parents and carers and this is proving challenging in many ways. We have tried to keep the website updated with links to learning that you might find helpful and will continue to do this, so please take a look from time to time. We also post updates on our Facebook page and on Twitter, so now might be a good time to follow us if you don't already do so. I also believe that from 20th April the BBC are launching a package of home education programmes, which should prove helpful.

Working from home was never going to be easy and each family will settle into a routine that suits their circumstances. Please let me reassure you that we will continue to set work on Show My Homework but there is no expectation that children will complete it all and there will certainly be no reprimand or sanction when they return to school if they haven't completed specific work. We can monitor a lot of work that is being done from home and we are enjoying receiving messages from the children and responding to them. We realise that when we return it will be impossible to mark everything they have produced, so we are trying to give feedback through SMHW as much as possible. We are constantly thinking about ways to stay in touch and want all our children to know that we are here for them, even if it is in a "virtual" way.

That being said, the longer we are out of school, the harder it is going to be to fill the knowledge gaps this current situation creates, which will grow wider as each week passes. So I would encourage you to establish a daily routine that sees your child engage in some form of learning activity connected to schoolwork as well as engaging in hobbies and more relaxing pursuits. We advised students and parents to try and follow the school timetable if that helped them structure their days, but this does not mean that children should be working solidly from 8.40am - 3.00pm. Instead, they might follow the timetabled lessons for each day but spend 30 minutes or so on the activities teachers have set rather than a full hour. There is a helpful guide on our website that has been produced by Lancashire County Council which you may find useful, especially with regards to structuring the days.



A large number of our children are entitled to free school meals and you will be aware that the DFE have launched a voucher scheme that will give each family a £15.00 weekly shopping voucher to cover the cost of the weekly free school meal. This covers term time only and so will come into effect week beginning 20th April. We have collected up to date contact details from all our families who qualify for free school meals and will be in touch over the next two weeks.

Ofqual have released information about how GCSE grades will be awarded today for students who had their exams cancelled. This has been placed on the school website, so please look if your child is in year 11. On the subject of year 11, we said goodbye to them in March at a rushed and emotional assembly. We do intend to hold a year 11 prom for them as soon as things return to normal and have provisionally booked Bartle Hall for early in the autumn term, in the hope that by then, it will be allowed to go ahead. As the picture becomes clearer regarding events such as these, we will be in touch, but for now, please allow your son or daughter to hold onto the hope that they will get to take part in this special occasion, so their prom dress or beautiful suit will not be wasted.

The current situation has been described time and again as unprecedented, and indeed it is. None of us could have planned for this and we are all sailing through uncharted waters doing the best that we can in whatever way we can. Sometimes we get it right and other times, we don't. On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to finish by thanking you for your patience, understanding and support, it is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Asquith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Miss S Asquith
Headteacher