



## **GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY**

Bowgreave · Garstang · Lancashire · PR3 1YE · Tel: 01995 603226 · Email:  
[info@garstangcommunityacademy.com](mailto:info@garstangcommunityacademy.com)

4<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Just a short letter from me this week, as we approach the final week of another extraordinary half term (when does extraordinary become simply ordinary I wonder?)

Another huge thank you to parents and carers for keeping your children going through all this – please keep talking to us ([slt@garstangcommunityacademy.com](mailto:slt@garstangcommunityacademy.com)) if you need help with technology etc, or anything else for that matter – you could also check out a new area on the Website which Miss Royds has put together with useful information and sources of support and guidance: <https://garstangcommunityacademy.com/wellbeing> .

One thing which has come through strongly in the last couple of weeks is that children (and parents I imagine) are getting pretty tired and need a proper break at half term. In order that children don't feel that they need to use half term to catch up on any missed work, we are going to have a 'Finish Off Friday' next week (12<sup>th</sup> February) so that any children who want to revisit any work or just finish things off can do so. If children don't have work to finish off, please encourage them to engage in some Wellbeing activities and send the 'evidence' in to [wellbeing@garstangcommunityacademy.com](mailto:wellbeing@garstangcommunityacademy.com) and/or look at some of the extension activities we have flagged up previously. I have told staff to set no new work on Synergy for that day, and not to request submitted work either (the added benefit being that I will have a night off processing the 'Nightly Nudge' email/text home at around 7.30pm and possibly an earlier Friday G n T). If children are going to attend the in-school provision next Friday, please will you let us know by Monday so we can adjust our staffing levels accordingly.

It's more important than ever that we all celebrate successes and for us to show how incredibly proud we are of what is being achieved. To help celebrate our children's success stories, from this week, Bubble/Form Tutors and Progress Leaders will nominate students for a 'Weekly Wow' award. All students nominated will receive a personalised certificate and additional award points. Each week, three children from each year group will then be chosen at random to receive a £5 'Love to Shop' voucher.

Please do randomly ask children to show you the work they have done that day and compare it to what was asked for on Synergy – this will give great opportunities for you to commend them for the effort they have put in while also making sure they aren't taking any short cuts. Please also continue to keep a handle on children's internet/online use – keep checking what sites they are accessing, keep parental controls and web filters at sufficiently high settings and do have a look at the useful resources under our E-safety button on the website. If children, or you, have any concerns, please just contact us through the usual channels, or via the 'Keep Me Safe' button on the website.

Next week sees the first of a new venture for GCA – a Remote Progress Evening. Year 11 parents will be the first to experience one of these, but it is our intention to use them for the rest of the academic year (and possibly beyond – we'll see.) Year 11 parents, please book your appointments if you haven't done



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so already – all the information can be found at:

<https://garstangcommunityacademy.com/parents/schoolcloud> . Clearly, we don't yet know what Ofqual will tell us regarding how final grades will be arrived at, so teaching staff won't be able to answer any questions of that nature or give a definite indication of expected grades at this stage. What they will be able to talk about are subject specific strengths and areas for development; how children have engaged this year, including during lockdown; and the importance of continuing to engage, participate and work hard.

If children have been in the in-school provision and develop Covid symptoms or have a positive test result, please do let us know, including over the half term break.

As ever, please keep in contact with us and encourage your children to keep engaging, keep submitting, and keep communicating.

We will, as always, get through this together.

Very best wishes, and stay safe

Alasdair Ashcroft  
Headteacher