



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave · Garstang · Lancashire · PR3 1YE · Tel: 01995 603226 · Email:
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5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we enter another National Lockdown (currently scheduled to last for this half term), I feel it's really important that I continue to communicate with you on a regular basis to highlight key issues over the coming weeks.

I think the first thing to say to all, is that I firmly believe following conversations with many other Headteachers, that we are incredibly well prepared for this eventuality and, therefore, if children engage as much as possible, their education will continue to progress and they will be absolutely fine especially compared to their peers Nationally. In other words, try to reassure your children that it WILL be ok.

While the vast majority of children are being educated at home via their Remote Learning, we do have a small in-school 'Vulnerable and Critical Worker' provision. The provision is there to support children and families who require this additional support. If you feel that you qualify and are in need of your children accessing this provision, please email slt@garstangcommunityacademy.com with full details of your request.

Remote Learning began in earnest yesterday, and was an amazing first day of fabulous work set and superb engagement from nearly every child – well done everyone for making that happen and setting the bar high for the coming weeks. It is really important that children do engage fully in the Remote Learning and need to let us know if there are barriers to this (please see my previous letter). We will continue to issue Award Points throughout this period, and there will be special awards for 'Super-Engagers'. However, likewise, there will be non-negotiable, after-school, catch-up sessions for children if their engagement has been so poor that their overall education will be negatively impacted.

We will send out a Live Lesson schedule in the next couple of days. Although, I realise, it is not always easy for children and families to access these, we have I believe, achieved the right balance and feel that children should be able to access these sessions without too much difficulty and get lots of benefit from them to support their Remote Learning.

Year 11 students may well, justifiably, feel particularly confused and concerned about their summer exams and qualifications. All I can say, is that there will, almost certainly, be some form of assessment(s) later this year and, therefore, it is still massively important that they engage with their Remote Learning, in order to keep up with the work in readiness for internal and/or external assessments, and to maintain a high level of work should we be expected to generate a Centre Assessed Grade at some point.

As parents, please 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.



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As far as Mass Testing is concerned, we are still making the necessary preparations for this to happen for staff and children in the provision, and in readiness for when all children do return. Mrs Smith is leading on this in school and will be sending out a consent form via PMX – please do complete this as soon as you can do.

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