



## **GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY**

Bowgreave · Garstang · Lancashire · PR3 1YE · Tel: 01995 603226 · Email:  
info@garstangcommunityacademy.com

GCA Parent/Carer Briefing

Monday 27/4/20

Hello, I hope you are ok and coping with these difficult times

There is still much speculation in the news about when schools will re-open. For now, we are still assuming that we will be in this position beyond half term, and that even when schools do go back, it is likely that this will be phased in some way. More information will be sent out as and when we have it.

If you haven't read it, this is a link to document from the Government, which is a useful read (last updated on 23/4/20):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Key Worker/Vulnerable/EHCP Children - School Provision:

There are no further arrangements regarding our in-school provision: If you would like your child to attend the provision, please email SLT@garstangcommunityacademy.com before 5.00pm the day before. The more notice you can give us, the better.

**If your child needs to catch a bus to access the provision, we will need 48 hours to organise this.**

Children's work, and future implications:

The number of GCA children positively engaging with their online work is absolutely fantastic – *significantly* above the national figure – this is testament to the quality and clarity of work being set and responded to, the children's resilience and work ethic, and your (parent/carer) encouragement – well done! This will stand children in good stead going forwards – it is important to remember that every child in the country is in the same boat and therefore there will have to be concessions, compromises and 'gap-filling' as we go forwards. The more children engage, the less catching up with the rest of the country's children there will be – in fact our children will be well ahead of the curve and in a comparatively really good position.

**If children are getting worried about this, please do reassure them that all the children in the country are in the same position and that we are, as a school, in a great position with how well engaged they are, and the 3 year GCSE curriculum we have in place.**

On the back of this, Progress Leaders and Form Tutors are making phone calls to parents. Form Tutors, primarily to check that children are ok, and Progress Leaders if children appear to need some external encouragement to engage more. Please, as you always are, be patient, these calls are being made on top of all the work being set and responded to, all of the future planning and preparation being done, and a fair amount of teachers' own home schooling.



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### Free School Meals and Electronic Devices:

We have moved to a National Voucher Scheme for Free School Meals, which appears now to be functional.

You may have seen in the press that Electronic devices are being made available for some year 10 students and some vulnerable children – we have applied for some of these, but availability is very limited. If you strongly feel that you should be entitled to access one, please contact me via [info@garstangcommunityacademy.com](mailto:info@garstangcommunityacademy.com)

### Year 11:

Please do keep encouraging year 11 children to continue to access the set work, for the reasons I have given previously.

Please do not contact any member of staff to discuss your child's 'forecast' GCSE grade in a particular subject. I am really sorry, but they cannot, and will not, discuss individual grades under any circumstances.

### 2020-21 Curriculum

We are in the process of making some decisions about how the current situation should impact on the curriculum in the new academic year (2020-21) and very probably in future years too. The likelihood is – although a final decision is yet to be made – that we will effectively begin the new academic year in January 2021. This means that, as far as possible, children will continue in the Autumn Term in the same classes as they were in at the point of lockdown, with the same teachers and continue this until Christmas. This is to provide a semblance of continuity, and stability, to help both educationally, and psychologically, while we pick up the pieces and try to work out how to put them back together again (and, which pieces are missing.)

On a practical level, if this is the final decision made, the current year 8 will complete their curriculum process ('Options') during the Autumn Term.

We are also actively planning what to do with the current year 6 children who will become our new year 7 – we have a number of things in the pipeline for the coming weeks and months to try to ease worries and allow these children to jump straight into team GCA in September. So if you know anyone in this situation, please tell them we're thinking about them and we'll be in touch.

### A Bit of Fun

Mrs Crowe will be in touch very soon to tell you about a couple of exciting opportunities – firstly, helping us to put together a 'GCA Lockdown Song' – singing to a backing track Mrs Crowe has produced, and sending them in – all contributions will then be put together to make one single. And secondly, producing your own musical contributions which Mrs Crowe will then put together as an LP (is that the right expression? 😊)

So if this floats your boat, watch for updates from Mrs C.



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### Safeguarding:

If there are ANY safeguarding issues, please contact us via the 'Keep me Safe' button on the school website, or report them to the usual authorities.

Warm wishes, and stay safe

Mr Ashcroft