18th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Please find attached a letter from Mr Bullen (Interim Director of Education for FCAT) outlining the Trust’s arrangements for children returning in January 2021. Further to this email, I feel I need to expand on some of the issues raised in the letter:

* Children returning on 4th January 2021:
	+ Year 11 - We expect all of our Year 11 children to return as planned on Monday 4/1/21. Year 11s should arrive as normal and make their way to their usual before school zone. Normal lessons will be scheduled as per their timetables.
	+ Vulnerable children – Vulnerable children are expected to attend school from 4/1/21 (please see below for a full definition of ‘Vulnerable’) - Vulnerable children will access work on Synergy in the F-Block rooms, supervised by non-teaching staff, while teaching staff teach Year 11 and/or maintain the Remote Learning provision for Years 7 to 10.

On arrival at school, children should make their way to their usual before school zone, and then go directly to F block when the bell rings, where they will be directed to their allocated learning space. Please email SLT@garstangcommunityacademy.com prior to Thursday 30/12/20 to confirm that your child will attend this provision (if children have a Social Worker, we would require information from the Social Worker if children do not intend to return on 4/1.)

* + Children of Critical Workers (NHS staff, emergency services etc.) – please email SLT@garstangcommunityacademy.com prior to Thursday 30/12/20 to inform us that you would like your child to access this provision, and on which days. On arrival at school, children should make their way to their usual before school zone, and then go directly to F block when the bell rings, where they will be directed to their allocated learning space, where they will access work through Synergy, supervised by non-teaching staff, while teaching staff teach Year 11 and/or maintain the Remote Learning provision for Years 7 to 10.
* All other children:
	+ From 4/1/21 to 8/1/21, children should access their Remote Learning via Synergy, following their normal (January ’21) timetable and submitting work as required using the submit button. If children are struggling with accessing their Remote Learning, please let us know as soon as possible by emailing slt@garstangcommunityacademy.com .
	+ All other children will return to school ‘as normal’ on Monday 11th January.
* Buses:

It is our assumption that school buses will operate as normal, and will be communicating that expectation to the bus companies and LCC.

* Free School Meals:
	+ We are looking to extend the Christmas voucher scheme for the week commencing 4/1/21, but will provide meal boxes on request if this isn’t possible.

Clearly, due to the short turnaround time, these arrangements are being made with some speed, and are subject to change – please continue to check the GCA website for updates.

Very best wishes



Alasdair Ashcroft

Headteacher

Vulnerable Children:

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

* are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
* have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
* have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children’s social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
	+ children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children’s social care services or in the process of being referred to children’s services
	+ adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
	+ those at risk of becoming NEET (‘not in employment, education or training’)
	+ those living in temporary accommodation
	+ those who are young carers
	+ those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example, due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
	+ care leavers
	+ other children and young people at the provider and local authority’s discretion including pupils who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health