Communications update

Dear Parent/Carer

Effective communication between home and school is an essential element to ensuring that students are successful at school. We have made a number of changes to the apps and platforms that we utilise and we wanted to clarify some of these changes with parents.

Class Charts

Class charts is a new app, and we have been very pleased with the uptake of class charts by parents and students since our return to school. As previously stated, parents have a separate access code to register from their child and this information has already been sent to you via email.

The app has an array of features which we are slowly embracing. Some of the features include be able to view your child's timetable, class teachers, behaviour points and any detentions issued. This app is also being used by staff to set all homework, when logged in both parents and students are able to see a record of the homework that has been set.

The app also allows parents to notify us of any absences and instructions related to this have been shared via the class charts app this week and are also available on our website by following the link below:

https://files.schudio.com/great-sankey-high-school/files/documents/Reporting_Absences.pdf

Over the coming academic year, further functionality will be introduced.

Google classroom replaced by Microsoft 365/Teams

As a school we have moved to Microsoft 365 as a platform, this brings with is a number of benefits such as a simpler login process with only one password for school and at home, full access to all Microsoft products and improved capacity for student and teacher interaction during live lessons should these become needed at any point. While all homework will be set in class charts, staff may sign post students to Microsoft Teams to additional resources that will support students in completing homework. We **will no longer be using google classroom** and students do not need to access google classroom.

Remote education update

Although fewer students are isolating, we wanted to update you on our remote provision for students who are isolating and are well enough to complete their school work. As you will be aware, Government guidelines related to self-isolation were updated during the summer holidays. As a consequence, only students who are symptomatic or have tested positive for Covid 19 need to isolate. The positive impact of this is that fewer students will now be required to isolate and work remotely.

All students have been automatically enrolled into a year group covid classroom where work will be posted. Students should login to office 365 using their school email address and password, and they have been shown how to do this in school. Work will be posted in the class materials for students and they will follow an isolation timetable not their personalised timetable. Isolating students will be contacted each day by a member of staff, to provide support and ensure they are able to access the work set. Should you have any questions or difficulty accessing the resources please raise them at this point or contact your child's year team. There is also a useful how to guide on our website which you can access by following the link below:

https://www.greatsankey.org/information/supporting-students-and-parents-throughout-covid-19

Sims app to be withdrawn

We know that accessing the sims app has been challenging for many parents and that having too many apps can be overwhelming. Consequently, we will no longer be using the sims app for any communication from school. Student reports will now be sent via email instead of the sims app. All other communication will be via email, our website or the class charts app.

Many thanks for your continued support. Should you have any further questions related to this please contact the year team of your child in the first instance.

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs Christina Kane

Deputy Headteacher