

September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope you and your family are well. I just wanted to get in touch with an update for you on our curriculum provision and plans for the 2020-21 academic year.

We have been following the government updates very closely and senior learners have worked throughout the summer to ensure that we have a full return of our learners in September.

It is very important that our learners experience a broad and balanced curriculum provision whilst we are adhering to the Department for Education guidance on school reopening. With the government guidance we have had to make some adjustments to the frequency of lessons for PE, music and ICT at KS3, but all subjects are being delivered. We have also put an increased emphasis at KS3 on the development of literacy and numeracy skills for all learners in response to the time period that we did not have all of our learners in school. At KS4 our learners are studying their option subjects in addition to the core subjects studied by the vast majority of learners.

Our fantastic team of curriculum leaders have adapted or replanned schemes of learning in response to the current situation with regards to curriculum recovery for learners or the altered year group bubble rooming for our learners. Each department has a clearly defined approach to curriculum recovery including changes to our curriculum maps and the use of low stakes assessments of our learners in lessons, followed by responsive teaching where missed learning or misconceptions can be addressed.

It has been wonderful having our learners return to school and we are all adjusting to the new systems and structures within school. We have a very keen focus on minimising the indirect transmission of virus from learner to learner through any use of resources in lessons, so if possible it would be really helpful if your child always had with them (in addition to their High 5) their own pink and green highlighter pen, and green biro. These resources are used by learners in lessons to reflect on their work and make progress. A glue stick and a pair of safety scissors (rounded end rather than pointy) would also be useful.

Whilst we are welcoming our learners back to school we are also very busy planning for all eventualities that may occur in this academic year linked to the current context. Teams Live Event lessons will be a central feature of our blended approach to remote education if the current government tier 1 situation for schools was to change.

As always, you can keep up to date with news and events from school using our twitter feed (@AspirePlusTrust). I hope you and your families stay safe and well and if I can be of any further help please do not hesitate to get in touch,

Kind regards



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