

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

At the end of a second busy week back, I am writing to you again with some key updates.

### **Remote education**

A reminder that students in years 7-11 will receive 15 face to face Teams lessons each week to be supported by assignments set on Show My Homework. Students in Years 12 and 13 will largely follow their normal timetable which will also be supplemented by Show My Homework assignments. This mix is to allow for the different learning styles of all students whilst still maintaining regular face to face contact with teaching staff. Please also see this link to our website which explains how to access our remote learning platforms and resources from home:

<https://www.samworthchurchacademy.co.uk/student-information/remote-learning-guide>.

Students in year 11 will not have any face to face lessons next week, commencing 18<sup>th</sup> January, as a one off to enable them the time to complete assessments in place of their planned mock exams. This has been communicated to students by email and the assessments will be shared using Show My Homework with instructions.

Students in year 13 will follow the same plan as above for year 11 but the following week, commencing 25<sup>th</sup> January.

We would like students to have their cameras on in lessons if possible so we can ensure they are engaged in the learning as much as possible and we can see how they are doing. We would encourage students to blur or change their background when their camera is on, guidance on how to do this can be found [here](#).

So far students have been fantastic at engaging with their remote learning and we are hopefully settling into a routine that will become more normal to them. Please praise them for the effort and work they are putting in to their studies and as always, do continue to feedback to us with any concerns or suggestions so that we can take these on board and make continuous improvements to our processes.

### **Year 11 and 13 Exams**

You will have heard again from the recent news that the government is considering 'mini exams'. They are consulting with schools over the next two weeks and we will keep you updated as soon as we have further details to share. The limited information we do have is that grades will be collected from schools as late as possible in the year. This means that everything your child is doing now may be used to help inform their grades. Please can you therefore encourage them to complete the work they are being set and that they are engaging with their lessons.

### **Free School Meals**

If your child is entitled to free school meals, we will continue to provide a weekly food parcel. We have chosen to continue with this option for several reasons:

- We have received lots of positive feedback about the quality of the food parcels we have provided so far. We are fortunate that these are prepared with great care in house by our own catering team (in line with the recommended government guidance) and therefore we can quickly adapt them to suit individual dietary needs where necessary.

- The majority of the vouchers issued during the last lockdown and over holiday periods, could not be used online. If they could be spent online some parents/carers experienced difficulties obtaining a delivery or collection slot. We also had a few issues where people tried to spend them in store but couldn't access the voucher on their device or there were issues with the balance which resulted in them spending money they hadn't budgeted for and resolving the issue afterwards. Shopping in store also caused anxiety for some who would have preferred not to. We hope that by offering a collection directly from our car park with social distancing in place, this will help to alleviate some of these issues and anxieties.

The parcels will be available to collect once a week from the Academy car park on any day that is convenient to you, Monday to Friday between 11am to 1pm. We would encourage you to collect this when out on any other essential journey such as when doing your regular weekly shop. If you are unable to collect the parcel yourself please ask a friend, relative, neighbour or your child if they can help. If you do have any particular difficulties in collecting your parcel please contact us in the usual way so we can discuss alternatives with you. If your child will be attending the Academy through the vulnerable and key worker provision and is entitled to a free school meal, they will be provided with a meal as usual.

#### **Vulnerable and Key Worker Provision**

A brief reminder that if you are a key worker whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response, your child can attend our on-site provision if required. Government guidance does state that parents and carers are advised to keep children at home if they can. If you need your child to attend school between now and half term, please email [sspencer@tscacademy.org.uk](mailto:sspencer@tscacademy.org.uk) as soon as possible. It is essential that we have this information so that we can put suitable arrangements in place and so that we can follow our safeguarding arrangements should your child not arrive at the Academy when expected.

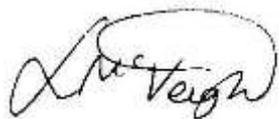
#### **Covid Testing at the Academy**

We began our asymptomatic testing last week starting with staff and this week we extended it to the students accessing the provision on site. We have tested just over 160 people so far and everyone has tested negative.

If you have any further questions about anything in this update, please email [enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk).

I hope you all have a safe and relaxing weekend as far as possible.

Yours faithfully



Lisa McVeigh  
Principal