



29th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you again with some key updates and reminders. The first section below is particularly important.

Support for Home Learning

Firstly, I want to be very frank and open with you all here. We have reports of students who are putting too much pressure on themselves and working too hard, but we also have requests for more work for some students! We are providing what we think is good balance of work but if at any time students need more to do, you can encourage them to ask their teacher for extension tasks or they can use the wealth of good online learning resources out there provided by [BBC Daily](#), [BBC Bitesize](#) or [Oak National Academy](#). You will also know best whether they are shirking or not and we would ask for your support in encouraging them to work harder if this is the case! If, on the other hand, you feel it is too much for them and they need to do less or take more breaks then please feel completely free to encourage this. I have asked teachers to be understanding and mindful that all students are different and will respond to these very unusual circumstances in a multitude of ways. Quite simply, you know your children best, and if your judgement means they miss deadlines or lessons then we will support you on those decisions.

Secondly, to help with this, a small team of teachers at the Academy have put together an excellent video guide to help students with managing their workload and time. It is great practical advice that I myself have heeded and I would encourage you all to watch. The video can be found on the remote learning page of our website here;

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

Remote education offer

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 visit the remote learning area of our website using the above link where you will find several documents which explain how to access our remote learning platforms and resources from home.

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](#).

Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to free school meals, you will be aware from previous updates that we continue to provide a weekly food parcel. The parcels are 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.

Nottinghamshire County Council have confirmed they will provide schools with funding from the Winter Covid Grant so that we can issue vouchers for the February half-term. Vouchers will be distributed to you by email or text using 'Wonde' as we did during October half-term and the Christmas break. You will receive your voucher week commencing 8th February which will allow time for you to contact us before the half-term break with any issues.

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 note the change of email sid@tscacademy.org.uk and let us know as soon as possible. For those key workers already accessing the provision you will receive your regular mid-weekly prompt to do that. 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 have now tested all students who are accessing provision on site and we will test any students who join this provision where we have parental consent. We continue to test staff twice weekly now following updated guidance.

As always, if you have any further questions about anything in this update, please email enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk.

I hope you all have a safe and relaxing weekend as far as possible. Please do take time to watch the video mentioned earlier and remember that we will support your decisions as parents and carers and are always here to help and support in whatever way we can.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa McVeigh', written in a cursive style.

Lisa McVeigh
Principal