



ASTLEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

Head of School: Graham Scott

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Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope that you are all safe and well and that the home learning over the course of the last couple of weeks has not been too troublesome. We are, as always, aware of the great challenges families in our community are experiencing at the moment and are very grateful for the support you are giving to your children and to our school during this time. Hopefully, the weeks ahead can be a productive time for everyone in this ever changing world we now live in. Some key updates I would like to share with you are as follows:

In-School Provision

We currently have an in-school provision at Astley which is working very well, catering for approximately 20 students each day. A reminder to all parents and carers that this provision is open to all the children of "Key Workers" and those children who are classed as "vulnerable". Should you wish to apply for a place in this provision, please contact school and/or complete the Google form which has been sent out to everyone. We still have the capacity to support more students and we are very keen to ensure that all those who are entitled to be in school take up the opportunity.

Remote Learning

In terms of "Remote Learning", all of our students are able to access work via Google Classroom and many staff have been able to "Google Meet" with their classes to establish more positive learning experiences. Whilst it is important that students keep up with the work their teachers set, it is also important that they do not become too anxious or stressed about things, in what is a challenging time for them all. If you are concerned about your child, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do what we can to help. In addition, if you feel that your child has too much or too little work, please let us know, as this is valuable feedback for the teaching staff.

Laptop Loan Scheme

We have been able to loan out many laptops to eligible students, but we have been inundated with requests for them. We are therefore, currently allocating one per family, as our stocks are now very low. If you are struggling with ICT access please do let us know and we will do all we can to try and help you.

FSM Voucher Scheme

The government announced on Wednesday that the national free school meals (FSM) voucher scheme will start again w/c 18 January. If your child is in receipt of free school meals and you haven't already responded to the message earlier this week, please confirm which email address you would like us to send your eCodes to as soon as possible. More information will follow about the distribution of these in due course.

Covid Testing

We hope to start the Covid testing of staff and students in school very soon. Our staff will be in touch to arrange consent forms over the next week or so.

Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs)

We are gradually getting more information from the government about how we will be asked to assess and allocate CAGs this summer in the absence of formal external examinations. Although the picture is not yet entirely clear, we will obviously be undertaking some form of internal assessments, which will most likely be set and marked by teaching staff. It is therefore vital that all students continue to complete the work set by staff over the next few weeks and be in a position to sit assessments at some point when we return to school. So, although nationwide external examinations will not take place, our own internal and “used as evidence” examinations will. More information to follow.

Other Events

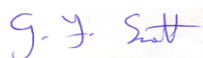
I hope to be able to provide you with more information in relation to some events which we have had to put on hold due to the lockdown over the next few days/weeks. This will include Year 9 Options Process, Sixth Form Options Process and Parents Evenings. We also hope to conduct “check-in communications” with students to see how they are all doing at some point.

As always, if you are unsure about anything or have any questions/queries please contact school. Each day we have a member of reception staff and a Senior Leader on duty from 8.30am to 3.30pm. It is also my intention to be in school all day, every day should you wish to speak to me.

Many thanks for everything you are all doing to support our young people and I wish you and your families the very best throughout this challenging time.

Take care and stay safe everyone. Best wishes from all at Astley CHS.

Kind regards



Graham Scott
Head of School