



ASTLEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland NE25 0BP

Tel: 0191 2371505 Fax: 0191 2376891

Email: reception@svf.org.uk

www.svf.org.uk

Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

Head of School: Graham Scott

11 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you are all well and looking forward to a well earned break from the “Home Learning” which everyone has been supporting so admirably over the last six weeks. Many thanks to everyone for all that you have done. It has been a busy half-term and the vast majority of students have been fantastic in terms of the work they have produced. In addition, I would like to thank all of the staff (support and teaching), who have worked incredibly hard to maintain a high quality provision in and out of school.

Key updates are as follows:

In-School Provision

Our in-school provision at Astley is now catering for a group of 69 students, which once again, is a significant increase on the last time I updated you.

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

The system appears to continue to work smoothly and the students are in the main, keeping up with their work. The most recent data capture was completed on Tuesday 9 February and staff will be following up on any significant issues before the end of the week. Students are graded RED, AMBER or GREEN for each subject. We have managed to give out some very positive feedback, as well as some things to work on for some students.

Laptop Loan Scheme

All of our laptops are now out on loan, but we do have access to data sticks should you need extra internet access. We have also received a few monetary donations which will allow us to purchase new chromebooks in due course. Please do let us know if you are still struggling with ICT access.

FSM Voucher Scheme

FSM students will receive a £30 voucher via the Hugg system for the half term holiday, courtesy of a £15 boost from Northumberland CC. We have had very few issues with the FSM voucher scheme in recent weeks, but if you do have any problems please contact the Finance Office via School Gateway and we will see what we can do to help. If you haven't redeemed your £60 Edenred eCode please ensure you do so before it expires on 19th February. We won't be able to reissue any eCodes after that date.

Covid Testing

Every test which has been conducted in Astley for students and staff has been negative, which is great news. A reminder to parents/carers that if your child is in school and you wish for them to be tested, then you must complete the required consent form which has been sent out to all those attending school by Mr Donald.

Examinations Consultation 2021

The consultation has now ended and we expect to have the feedback report by the end of the month. More information when we have digested the guidance/recommendations.

Year 9 Options Process

All information for the year 9 options process was sent to parents/carers & students on Tuesday 9 February. Everything is online this year and available on the school's website. A variety of presentations are available from staff to inform your child's decision making. All option choice returns by students are required by 4pm on Friday 26 February via the online link which has been sent to you, alternatively it is available on the school's website.

Return to School

We expect to have more information on Monday 22 February about the return to school. At the moment, we are really unsure what to expect. So it may be that some, all or no year groups return on Monday 8 March. As soon as our plans are in place, we will let you know.

New Build

As some of you may have seen in the Northumberland Gazette, up to date details have been provided on the funding structure for the SVF new build. Details are as follows:

“The final proposal as part of the February 2019 budget process was £21million for new 'state-of-the-art' school buildings in Seaton Delaval for the Seaton Valley Federation.

Last year's capital programme indicated that £4.5million would be spent this year - which has not happened as the outline business case is still awaiting approval - followed by £16.9million in 2021-22.

The latest programme has upped the total investment to £31.6million, but just £230,000 for the coming year, followed by £15.9million and £15.5million in 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively”.

More information will be provided once we know the exact plans and timescales, but the confirmation of funding would appear to be great news.

Mr Norman Wiseman

I received a message on Tuesday 9 February to say that Mr Norman Wiseman who was a very well respected (retired) Headteacher at Astley CHS many years ago, had unfortunately died. I am not sure how many people will have heard of Norman, but I know that many families will have a connection in some way to people who were taught by him or knew of him in the community. I was fortunate to meet Norman on one occasion and he certainly made a really positive impression on me.

We thank Mr Wiseman for his excellent contributions to our school and send our sincere condolences to his family from all at Astley CHS at this difficult time.

As always, if you are unsure about anything or have any questions/queries please contact school. All that remains for me to say, is that I hope you all have a relaxing half-term break (if you are able to have one) and I send my best wishes to you all.

Keep up the great work everyone!

Kind regards

Graham Scott
Head of School