

13th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and that you are all coping with this new lockdown. We understand that many families are facing challenges in different ways and I would like to reiterate that we are here to support if we can. We fully appreciate that remote learning brings its own challenges to the family home and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for everything you are doing to support your child and the school with remote learning.

Class Charts

Please do check the remote learning that is being set on classcharts. The easiest way to do this is to download the app to your phone. If any parents or carer has lost their log in details for classcharts, please email the school or your child's tutor and we will be able to tell you the password. Regularly viewing classcharts will allow you to keep up to date with how your child is progressing, monitor any house points gained and monitor any missed assignments.

What to expect from remote learning

We have been working hard to ensure that we consistently have the same quality of remote provision across all subjects. Students can expect to see a loom video or personalised introduction to a lesson; a main task and some form of assessment or exit quiz for the significant majority of their lessons. We recognise that a teacher explanation of the learning is vitally important to help with remote learning, therefore we are asking all colleagues to present the learning in this way.

To help us monitor engagement and understanding, teachers are issuing exit quizzes which will test students' learning from the lesson. This replicates the same process we would use in lessons where we would ask questions to ensure that students have understood the content and to help us prepare for the next lesson. It also means that we can help monitor who is engaging or who is struggling with the work. Where a child has missed the exit quiz or failed to hand in the assessed work on more than one occasion, parents will be informed via a classcharts notification. If we notice a pattern of students failing to submit work, we will ring home and find out if your child needs any additional support.

We have received some queries regarding live lessons and we appreciate that some parents would prefer live lessons for their child's remote learning (this means their teacher is visible online through Google Meets, with webcams on and students participating live).

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However, as a Trust we have taken the decision not to offer this at present for several reasons:

- Learning with a teacher in a classroom and the live streaming of lessons are very, very different – particularly if this was all day. There is no evidence that suggests that live lessons carry any benefit over pre-recorded lessons, or written content.
- Not everyone is fortunate enough to have a laptop per child, or a laptop at all. If a pupil is having to share a device with another family member, they may not have access at the time of the lesson.
- Some families do not have an internet connection, or enough data or strong enough signal to manage the demands of live lessons.
- With many people encouraged to work from home, it is difficult for some students to join in with live lessons for five hours per day without disturbing other family members also trying to work from home.
- Student feedback suggests that students appreciate the ability to follow the structure of their timetable but to take breaks when they wish. Live lessons would not allow this
- Our vulnerable learners and children of critical workers in school would not be able to access the lessons as we do not have the facilities in school.

If our remote content was delivered this way, many of our students would be further disadvantaged.

Instead, your child's remote learning will involve a variety of different approaches. In each case, we aim to deliver a meaningful, ambitious curriculum for every child in every subject.

The Government has recently published research about effective provision in remote education. If you would like to read more, please visit the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whats-working-well-in-remote-education/whats-working-well-in-remote-education>

Contact with form tutors

Thank you to all the families who have already signed up or participated in our form tutor weekly meetings; it has been great to catch up with students and families. These will continue to be offered on a weekly basis. The booking window for the next week will open on the same day as the day of appointment. For further guidance on how to book an appointment please use the below link: <https://acleacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Further information on how to book an appointment is available on our school website from the letter dated the 6th January.

Critical worker/ vulnerable student provision

Like many other schools across the country, we have seen the demand for in school provision has doubled since the last lock down. We are now at capacity in terms of numbers that we can safely offer spaces for. In line with the Local Authority guidance, we are prioritising requests on a case-by-case basis. The Government advice remains the same irrespective of whether you are a critical worker- if your child can stay at home; they should. However,

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The logo graphic for Wensum Trust, featuring a stylized wave or ribbon shape in shades of blue and green.

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if you are in critical need of in school provision, please contact Mrs Bryant who will be able to assess your request.
jbryant@acle.norfolk.sch.uk

Free School Meals

Following the Government's announcement to reissue free school meals vouchers we will aim to be able to issue these next week. We are currently awaiting further instructions from the Government and we will commence roll out as soon as are able to. If your circumstances have changed and you believe your child may be eligible for free school meals, please visit:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>

If you have any queries relating to free school meal vouchers- please contact Mrs Webb-
swebb@acle.norfolk.sch.uk

Lateral Flow Testing

Over the last week we have been training colleagues and converting a Science laboratory into a testing centre. We have begun the asymptomatic testing process for staff and are now in a position to commence initial tests for students currently in school. Although it all seems a bit strange, the colleagues who have taken part or have been trained in the process have all been pleased with how smoothly the process has run and feel reassured when working in school.

As children return to school, I will share further details with you about the process but if you would like to find out more, please visit the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/mass-asymptomatic-testing-in-specialist-settings>

As always, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. The school office is open every day during normal school times and senior leaders are in school every day.

With best wishes



Helen Watts
Principal

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