

22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to your child's education during this challenging time. We fully appreciate how hard it is for all families at this time and thank you for keeping in touch with us.

Remote Provision update

Last week we clarified our remote learning expectations for students and outlined that students are provided with five hours of work and additional form time material each day. The learning would incorporate a pre-recorded introduction, a main task and an exit quiz or similar assessment. We strongly believe that the approach we have taken with pre-recorded lessons and exit quizzes is the best pedagogical approach to remote teaching. We are very confident in the quality of the remote provision being delivered by our teaching staff and feel that when accessed; pupils are getting a very good diet of lessons.

As a school, we are constantly reviewing our provision and from communication with parents and students, we appreciate that some students are finding it challenging to maintain motivation. Additionally, we realise some pupils are struggling with developing healthy routines and would benefit from a more blended approach. Therefore, we have decided to introduce a live element to our teaching provision to help engage and motivate students who are struggling and to help enable peer and teacher interaction.

We are now in a position where we have provided over forty laptops to students who need them, so we have eased some of the access issues, which we were previously concerned about. We recognise that live lessons will still be problematic for some students in terms of shared access to computers or connectivity issues. However, we will ensure that the teacher delivery session within the lesson is recorded and shared on Google Classrooms as usual. We feel that this blended approach to remote provision will help students to engage with their learning meaningfully but also develop important independent learning skills.

Live lessons

We recognise that live sessions bring both advantages and disadvantages; therefore, they will represent a minority of total learning hours per week. Live lessons will account for roughly a quarter of KS3 total learning hours and roughly a third of KS4 total learning hours.

Live lessons will take place via Google meet and the online invitation will be posted in Google Classrooms on the day of the lesson. Live lessons will take place during the normal teaching timetable to ensure that there are no clashes. Live lessons will be scheduled for an hour but will run for 50 minutes to allow ease of joining and preparation for the next lesson.

We are part of...

WENSUMTRUST


FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Further details about the live lessons can be found in the loom introduction video, which will be posted in each Year group Google Classroom, form tutor classrooms and can be accessed at:

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/acleacademy/learning/remote-education> (bottom of the page) or directly via <https://www.loom.com/share/cc51627fe47c431f8ed5d9b2d38f210a>

It is important to remember that both the live lessons and live registration can be accessed via a mobile device or tablet as well as a laptop or a desktop computer.

Please see the live lesson allocation and student and parent protocols attached for further information.

Live lessons will begin the week commencing the 25th January and we expect all students who have access to attend. Please contact the school if there are any issues that would prohibit your child attending live sessions, for example illness or access issues.

Registration Roll call

We recognise that some students are struggling to develop consistent routines around getting started in the mornings and motivation is an issue for some. As such, we will be adapting a policy to ensure we can support pupils to become engaged first thing in the school day.

We will be arranging **daily morning registration live sessions, which will take place with your child's form tutor.** Your child and the students in their form group will **log into a Google Meet session at 8:50am every school morning** and will see their tutor for 5-10 minutes to register and check that they are up and ready to learn for the day ahead.

If all is well and students are set for the day ahead then they will then leave the Google Meet and proceed with their timetabled lessons for the day. We also intend for these sessions to provide an opportunity for students to ask specific questions about the learning they have been set for the day ahead or possibly discuss any concerns they might have.

We ask for your support in ensuring your child is up at an appropriate time and is ready to log in by 8:50am for their tutor session. **These morning check-ins will begin on Monday 25th January at 8:50am.** Pupils can find the Google Meet link within their Google Classroom for their tutor group (or they can ask their tutor for the code).

We have prepared thoroughly to ensure our remote provision strategy benefits all pupils and that live lessons are delivered to a high-standard. However, we do ask that you are patient in the roll-out of this new delivery of teaching and please ask your child's form tutor or Mr Sayce for any technical support or assistance if required. Please refer carefully to the student and parent protocol and ask your child to watch the instructional video posted on Google Classrooms.

We are part of...

WENSUMTRUST


FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Timings of the day for live provision

Form time check-in= 8:50am-9:00am

Period 1= 9:05am-10:05am

Period 2= 10:05am-11:05am

Break= 11:05am-11:30am

Period 3= 11:30am-12:30pm

Form time activities/lunch break- 12.30-12.50 pm (although these activities can be completed at any time)

Period 4= 1:30pm-2:30pm

Period 5= 2:30pm-3:30pm.

Form Tutor parent meetings

Thank you to all parents and students who have engaged with the form tutor virtual meetings. It has been great to check in with you and check that everything is going well with remote provision. In light of the daily live registration, form tutor meetings will move to a fortnightly basis rather than weekly. The next week for available booking will be the week commencing the 1st February. We will continue to make contact via phone calls if parents are unable to engage in the virtual meetings.

Lockdown Life Skills Challenge

This week we have launched a life skills lockdown challenge where students can earn extra house points through learning new skills. We are very aware that students are spending a huge amount of time in front of the screen, so we have launched the lockdown life skills challenge to try to encourage opportunities for students to step away from the screen. The life skills challenge activity is scheduled through tutor time Wed- Fri but students can perform these activities at any time they choose. Students should send photos or videos to their form tutor in order to claim the house points. At the end of half term, each form tutor will nominate a life skills champion and the champion will be entered into a prize draw.

We are part of...

WENSUMTRUST


FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Lockdown PE Challenge - House Competition

In order to keep active and healthy during this lockdown period, the PE Department have launched a fitness competition, which is scheduled to take place during core PE lessons. Each PE lesson will have a physical challenge differentiated by Bronze, Silver and Gold. We recognise that many students are already taking part in physical activity but they can now log their exercise through the exit quizzes and earn extra points for their houses. Full details of the house competition can be viewed in the PE Google Classrooms.

Word Warriors

Next week during the literacy form time activity, we will be relaunching our Word Warriors competition. Students will have the opportunity to expand their vocabulary through age appropriate differentiated vocabulary quizzes spanning Tier Two and Tier Three vocabulary. Participation in the exit quiz will earn students house points and a chance to enter the prize draw at the end of half term.

Submitting work and communicating with teachers

Wherever possible, students should use Google Classrooms to submit their work and ask questions. This allows for ease of monitoring work and helps teachers who are receiving a significantly high proportion of emails a day. A full instructional video on how to upload work via Google Classrooms is available in each year group classroom. We would also like to encourage students to ask questions relating to learning via the Google Classroom thread. This then helps others who may be struggling with a certain aspect of their learning and allows the teacher to communicate back with the whole class. Of course, students may still email teachers if they have a personal question.

Free School Meals Vouchers

Free School Meal vouchers have been issued to families covering the entitlement up to February half term. Our onsite kitchen will close from Monday 25th January, so students who are in school will need to ensure they have a packed lunch with them.

Year 8 HPV Immunisations

We have received a few queries regarding the Year 8 HPV Vaccination which was due to take place this week. The Immunisation Team have said any parents that have consented will be contacted in due course with the details of when and where the HPV immunisation will take place. The Immunisation team are currently waiting on guidance themselves. If you would like further details, please contact The Immunisation Team on **0300 555 5055** or ccs.norfolk.immunisationteam@nhs.net.

We are part of...



Year 9 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 27th January 4:30-7pm

Please ensure that bookings for Year 9 Parents' Evening are made before Monday 25th January when the booking system will close. This is an important Parents Evening as we are likely to run the options selection process through an online system so this is an important opportunity to find out more about GCSE's in each subject.

Ofqual consultation- Parents and Students of Year 11

Ofqual and the DFE have launched a joint consultation on the how GCSEs should be awarded this year. It is a very lengthy document and we will aim to produce a summary of the key suggestions next week in order to inform you further. However, if you would like to read the full consultation yourself and respond, either as a parent or student, please use the below link. The consultation closes on the 29th January.

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021?utm_source=18%20January%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Notification of Positive cases

We have been asked by Public Health England to continue to notify them of positive cases within the student body, despite being in Lockdown. If your child tests positive for Covid 19, please continue to notify the school through the info@acle.norfolk.sch.uk email address or by ringing the school office. It is also important for us to know so we can ensure that staff understand that students will be unable to complete remote learning if they are suffering from symptoms.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. The school office is open throughout the school day.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend (despite the current restrictions).

With best wishes



Helen Watts
Principal

We are part of...

WENSUMTRUST
