

29th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been another busy week in the Virtual School with hundreds of activities undertaken, live lessons held and work completed. During all of this we have however, taken time to pause and reflect on the very sobering news this week regarding the number of deaths due to Covid. We recognise that many of you in our community have been directly affected by this and there are others who are facing challenges which have arisen as a result of the pandemic. We are thinking of you all during this very challenging time.

Expansion of Virtual Provision

Last night we held our first virtual Parents' Evening and thus far, the reports have been overwhelmingly positive. Apart from a few anticipated glitches, everything ran smoothly and teachers were able to share information and guidance to support our Year 13 students and their parents. We are intending to expand this provision to other year groups so it would be very helpful if any Year 13 parents/carers could give feedback on their experience by taking a short survey which can be found here <https://forms.gle/6b9Q9oUZ5HMhivVJ9>

Other Planned Events

We look forward to meeting with parents of Year 12 students in the same way, virtually, on Thursday 25th February at Year 12 Parents' Evening.

After half term we will proceed with our options process for our Year 9 students. There will be a number of different opportunities for Year 9 students to explore career pathways and consider GCSE subjects before making their final choices by the end of the spring term. Details and dates for parents' meetings will be published at the end of this half term.

We are also holding interviews for Year 11 students hoping to progress to our 6th Form in September. These will take place straight after the half term break and both students, and their parents, will receive individualised invitations.

INSET Day on Monday

A reminder that it is an INSET day on Monday. No new work will be set by teachers, apart from catch up tasks, and we would encourage parents to support their child with having as much time as possible away from their screen. There will be no provision for students currently attending the Academy in person so these students should remain at home.

Examination Students

The Department for Education have opened a consultation on their proposals for replacement grades in place of examinations this summer. This consultation closes today and soon they should publish guidance for schools. In turn, we will communicate with students and parents as soon as we have this knowledge.

School Reopening Plans

You will be aware that the Prime Minister said this week that the earliest date schools will reopen is Monday 8th March but that this is subject to change. We will keep you updated with any new information regarding this as and when we receive it from the DfE.

Thank you for your on-going support and please have a safe weekend.

Yours faithfully



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Headteacher



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