



Christleton High School

Emailed on 5th January 2021.

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the Prime Minister's announcement last night of another national lockdown and the subsequent closure of schools, I want to update you on our plans for the coming weeks. We are initially planning for school closure until the February half term break, but it may well be for longer than this.

Emergency School Provision

School is now only open for children (Years 7-10) of key workers and students identified as being vulnerable. Mr Smith has already been in touch with relevant parents and carers and we are finalising our lists today. However, we are still in the midst of a public health emergency and we are trying to keep numbers in school to a minimum. I therefore ask all parents and carers who are key workers, to only make use of our Emergency Provision if you have no alternative childcare arrangements.

When these students are in school, they will be based in an IT room and will be following the same timetable and remote curriculum as other students in their Year group who are working from home. These rooms are staffed by class teachers on a rota basis. Students will still have a break and lunchtime as per their normal day, and will have access to the canteen to purchase food. We will still be enforcing social distancing rules in classrooms, canteens and social areas and hand hygiene and other safety requirements will still be followed.

Blended Remote Learning

All other students will be working from home following our Remote Blended Learning curriculum. As I stated in my email to you on the 31st December, students will be following their normal timetable. The Department for Education have made clear their expectation that secondary students should be following their normal curriculum offer and that a minimum of four hours a day study is expected. Students have been given all the codes to their relevant Google Classrooms and are expected to log on to lessons at the requisite time.

Our Blended Learning curriculum, means that students can expect to see a variety of activities, which will include live elements, recorded presentations, written work and research and assessments. Students will be following the curriculum and assessment plans that they would have experienced had they been in school. Some work may be posted in advance of the lessons, so whilst there is some flexibility to complete it at other times, the live elements of lessons mean that students should log on to each lesson at the time indicated on their timetable.

Form time will also continue remotely and there will be live Form periods during the week, including assemblies from senior staff and Heads of Year. Form tutors will also make direct contact with students, and they will receive periodic phone calls to check wellbeing and progress.

Feedback from this morning's lessons is very positive; there were some glitches with the software for some live interactions, but generally lessons progressed well, with excellent attendance. Please be aware that it may take time for teachers to log out of one lesson to log into another, so there will be a delay before lessons do start.

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Headteacher: Mr. D. P. Jones

Class teachers will also be staffing the supervision rota of our Emergency School Provision, and on the days they are on duty, they will not be available to complete any live lessons. However, for most staff, this is only one day a week.

We will be monitoring student access to online learning. Registers will be taken automatically when students log on to their Google Classroom. If students are not attending their online lessons, or completing work set, class teachers and Heads of Year will be in touch with parents and carers and we may require these students to attend school for a period of time to get them back on track. If students are ill, then please continue to report this in the usual way.

However, for the purpose of whole school registration, students working from home are classified with an X on SIMS and Edulink - this denotes home learning, not absence and not disengagement with remote learning.

Laptops

We are still working with parents to distribute lap tops to those families who have requested them, but if any family feels they need help with accessing online learning, please contact the relevant Year of Year - we do have a few spare laptops, but these are strictly limited. Online learning can also be accessed from tablets and smart phones. We are awaiting more laptop supplies and if any parents, via their work place, could donate some spare lap tops, or arrange grant funding to purchase some, then please get in touch. We also have a few spare data dongles available on request.

Exams

The vocational Btec exams that are scheduled to take place in the next couple of weeks, will still go ahead and our Exams Officer, Miss Hallam, will be in touch with relevant candidates, with information on updated arrangements.

This summer's GCSE and A-level exams have been cancelled. We do not yet know what will replace them. We have been promised an update from Ofqual by the end of January and we will obviously keep you updated.

To our Year 11 and Year 13 students, I would say that it is highly likely that some form of external assessment will still be needed to validate any Centre Assessed Grades. It is therefore vital that you continue to work hard in each of your subjects. As I stated above, you will still be following the curriculum and assessment plans remotely, that you would have followed had you been in school and it is important that we all work to complete the designed courses and assessments. Mrs Blackwell and Mr Cosstick will be in touch with more information in due course.

Year 12 and 13 mock exams that were due to take place on the 18th January have been postponed until later in the term - hopefully we will be able to rearrange these after the February half term, assuming that schools are allowed to reopen then. Year 12 and 13 students will now move on to study the next unit of their A-level courses.

I would respectfully ask all parents and carers, not to contact us with questions about any replacement for exams, or the process for arriving at Centre Assessed Grades. When we know more information, we will pass it on. What I will say, is that when deciding Centre Assessed Grades, no one piece of assessment data will be used. We will use a variety of information and data, including assessments yet to be completed, to arrive at any final decisions. But we expect CAGs to be only one element of final grades.

Other events

There are some events in the calendar this term, that we still intend to progress with:

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will continue as planned on the dates already set. It was already planned for these to be done remotely and further information will be given as each one approaches.

GCSE Option Choices

Our GCSE option process for Year 9 students will progress, broadly as planned. Mr Francis will keep you updated on the process and key dates - but again many of the activities will be conducted remotely.

Sixth Form Enrolment

Our website already contains a wealth of information on our Sixth Form enrolment process and Mr Cosstick will keep you updated on key dates and events.

Testing

Thank you to all those parents and carers who volunteered to help us with the mass testing programme. This is obviously suspended until later in the term. We will, however, still be conducting tests on staff on a weekly basis and on those students attending our Emergency School Provision. Consent forms will be sent out to parents and carers in due course. We will be in touch with those who have offered their services, should it prove necessary.

Clearly, this is not how we expected to start the new year and the new term. Difficult days are ahead for all of us. I don't underestimate the challenges of remote learning for students, parents/carers and staff and I thank everyone involved for the patience and resilience that has been shown in abundance, throughout this entire pandemic.

Although school remains closed to all visitors, communication lines remain open and if you have any questions or concerns, then please contact relevant members of staff.

On behalf of everyone at Christleton High School, stay safe, look after each other and look forward to better times – they're not too far away.

Kind regards



D P Jones
Headteacher