

January 2021

As we begin the New Year in a very different way to how we might have all imagined a few weeks back, I understand that you will be anxious and concerned for the welfare of your children and your families. I hope that you got chance to spend time with your immediate families over the Christmas break and that you have had some happy times despite the challenges. Despite it only being a couple of weeks since I last wrote to you, there are many things to update you so apologies now for the long update! I have put a heading to each section so that you can easily find information that is relevant to you and your families.

Lateral Flow Testing Arrangements

Since the day we broke up for Christmas, the 17th December, there have been many changes and updates to the national circumstances and the education sector. Following the announcement that schools would administer a mass testing programme, we had an overwhelmingly positive response to our plea for support. The local community here at Chase Terrace has been incredible. The offers of help and support that we have had have brought our community together at the toughest of times and ensured we recognize the good that comes out of difficult times. The efforts will not be wasted as we will continue to roll out a testing programme for staff in school and as soon as possible for the key worker school.

The director of one of our local businesses, Darren Ennis at Haywoods Contracts Ltd Quality manufacturers and installers of blinds, cubical tracks and other window coverings, is supporting us to ensure we have privacy screens in place within the test centre to enable students and staff to feel more comfortable in the process of testing. This will be a significant help to ensure that the process is as private and comfortable as possible.

In the coming days we will send out a request to parents of any children in the key worker school for consent to take part in the lateral flow testing programme. This will ensure we continue to keep students and staff safe in school.

Remote Learning

Students should be expecting to access their full curriculum from Monday 11th January as much as possible. We do understand that there may be more than one child working at home and that the resources available may not allow you to have them all on live lessons at any one time. Please contact us if you are having difficulty with the remote learning. We have applied for laptop devices from the government and will allocate these to families in need as we receive them.

There is some help available via Three, Smarty, Virgin, EE, Tesco and Sky what are all taking part in a government scheme to support parents with mobile data.

Please see the following link: <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>

I have also been made aware that the Xbox and PlayStation consoles enable students to access Microsoft Teams. Please see the following link - [How to get Zoom and Office on your Xbox One or PS4 | The Northern Echo](#)

Remote learning can be a source of stress for both students and parents. Please try to do what you can – we know there are a range of challenges to having children learning at home.

The BBC have launched a new series of educational programmes this week and there are online lessons available at the Oak National Academy for parents who wish to make use of them. Our curriculum plans are on our website and we also have knowledge organisers for each subject area that students can use for their lessons. Please get in touch with your relevant year office if you need help with any aspects of remote learning.

Free School Meals

We are continuing to run our food bank through school and we are hoping to start up the voucher scheme as soon as the government release the information. We expect that this will work as it did before. If you have recently become eligible for Free School Meals or if you are not sure whether you would be eligible, please contact us on office@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk and we will support.

Exams – year 11 and 13

You will be aware that there was an announcement on Monday evening from the Prime Minister regarding exams for our year 11 and 13 students. We recognize the stress that these students are under and how tough these times have been for them. Gavin Williamson, the Education Secretary, made an announcement yesterday about how judgements on the achievements of students will be made. The full details of how the grades will be arrived at have still not been released by the DfE or Ofqual, despite the rhetoric that they are already 'worked up and need fine tuning'. As soon as we have more information regarding the methods that will be used we will, of course, communicate this to you. Until we know more it is really important that students engage fully with their remote learning timetables so we can continue to have as much information as possible to assess their progress.

Critical Worker School

We are keen to continue to support our critical workers and it is important that our children who are vulnerable are in school if possible. Students in school will follow the online learning programme set by their class teachers. If you have requested a place that you no longer need please do let us know via the email office@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk

It is important to us to provide places to the families who absolutely need them but we do have to balance this with ensuring we have the capacity to staff the school as well as ensuring that teachers are available to teach their remote learning lessons. This will become more challenging if we have high numbers of requests for critical worker places so we do ask that this provision is used only if necessary. We ultimately want to provide the best learning experience to all children alongside supporting all of our critical worker families that need us.

Chase Terrace Academy House System

Thank you to all of our children who entered our competition in the autumn term to design logo's for our house system. Miss Clenton and I were really impressed with the entries and the time children had obviously invested in creating them. Mr Andrews, who is a very experienced artist and media specialist will be working with some of the students who produced particularly exciting logo's. We will contact these students soon to arrange this. They will be sure to get a lot out of working with Mr Andrews to develop their designs from their initial stages to the final productions.

More to follow...

With updates being released all the time I am sure I will be writing to you very soon to keep you informed of any new guidance.

For now, please look after yourselves first and make sure that you get help if you need it. There are still staff in school so please do call if you need us.

We have been overwhelmed by the support and positive outlook of our parents and families. Our community has stepped up to support with many things including lateral flow testing and deliveries of food parcels. There are many positives that come out of such dark and challenging times and the spirit and generosity of our community is most certainly one.

Thank you for your ongoing support, please keep in touch if you need anything.

Kind regards,



Nicola Mason
Head of School