

# Cottenham Village College Parent Weekly Newsletter

## w/c 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021



<b>Key Headlines</b>	<p><b>Mondays - 8.45-9.05 Tutorial</b> - this is the compulsory welfare tutorial for all pupils. Please encourage your son/daughter attends their weekly tutor sessions.</p> <p><b>Parental Survey</b> - Please do take the opportunity to review our provision and provide us with your feedback by completing our parental survey (link below).</p> <p><b>Homework</b> - We are not setting homework from now on, in addition to work set remotely during the week. We will review this in a fortnight.</p>
<b>Pastoral information</b>	<p>This is just a reminder that each tutor group will have three sessions each week to 'attend'. The two live tutor sessions will generally take place on Mondays (welfare session) and Thursdays (PSHE session) unless the form tutor communicates otherwise to tutees. The third session is a pre-recorded assembly and should be shared for viewing in time for each Tuesday.</p> <p>Please remember that, for general queries regarding pastoral and welfare issues, to contact form tutors in the first instance or pastoral coordinators. If you believe that the matter pertains to something more serious, such as bullying or a safeguarding matter, you can use the 'Report a Concern' link on the college's website.</p>
<b>Assembly</b>	<p>This week's assembly has been prepared by Miss Cassady and promotes positivity. As this is the week beginning with what is known as 'Blue Monday', and considering current circumstances, we wanted to ensure that we shared ideas with students about the importance of staying positive and activities that might help with this. This will be followed up by this week's PSHE session relating to looking after your physical and emotional wellbeing.</p>
<b>Vulnerable and critical worker students on-site</b>	<p>For all students who are on-site receiving their education we do need to be notified if your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 and tests positive. Please notify us via <a href="mailto:studentservices@astreacottenham.org">studentservices@astreacottenham.org</a>. We will then put in place the track and trace process.</p>
<b>Testing on-site</b>	<p>Testing on school site for vulnerable and critical worker students and staff starts this week. You have received the link to give consent for your child to be tested, if you haven't completed this yet, please do so asap.</p>
<b>Remote Learning</b>	<p><b>Thank you</b> Thank you for your continued support during this period of lockdown where most pupils are working remotely from home. We are continuing to ask pupils to review their experience via a weekly survey (emailed every Friday) so we can continue to develop and enrich our provision. Please encourage your son/daughter to complete this.</p> <p><b>Homework</b> Based on pupil survey feedback we have decided to suspend the setting of homework for all years. This is because we are concerned that with the amount of screen time and work set during the school day, setting homework tasks in addition is too much. We will review this change in a fortnight to see whether it has had a positive impact.</p> <p><b>Balance of live and non-live learning</b> Some pupils have feedback on the difficulties of having back-to-back live lessons. In response, we have reminded staff to leave a gap between lessons (thus allowing pupils a break between 'live' lessons) and to continue to consider the balance of 'live' lessons and work set on Teams to be completely independently.</p>
<b>Donations of old laptops</b>	<p>CVC has registered to the scheme for old laptops. If you have an old laptop (any kind) that you wish to donate, please bring this to reception between 8.00am and 3.30pm Monday-Friday.</p>

<p><b>Parent feedback</b></p>	<p>We continue to receive some very useful and positive emails from families regarding our remote teaching provision and we are working hard to improve the provision further and iron out any issues. We would now like to get your views on more detailed aspects of the current remote education provision, and we ask you to complete our parent survey, which can be accessed here: <a href="https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gGfPFvBL70-g-tgugufqCqC4kX_ZK2RFk6l6dc159ipUODhNNDkySkpRUIFIRDhXNTVKMkZaNjIWRs4u">https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gGfPFvBL70-g-tgugufqCqC4kX_ZK2RFk6l6dc159ipUODhNNDkySkpRUIFIRDhXNTVKMkZaNjIWRs4u</a></p> <p>Thank you to those who have already submitted your views to Ofsted using <a href="https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/">https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/</a> which is still active should you wish to contribute.</p>
<p><b>Reporting to parents</b></p>	<p><b>Year 10 Parents' Evening</b></p> <p>We apologise for having had to cancel the Year 10 parents' evening on Thursday 14th January. Having liaised with SchoolCloud they have provided an explanation for why this happened:</p> <p><i>"SchoolCloud provides parents' evening software to over 5000 schools, and experienced an outage on 14th January affecting the parents &amp; teachers accessing video calls at that time. An update to the system in December caused a web page to perform slowly and this ultimately took the system offline. This wasn't up to the high standard of service that schools expect of us, nor that we expect of ourselves. We have already made changes, and continue to take further steps to ensure that you can continue to enjoy this new format of parents' evenings."</i></p> <p>We have rescheduled the parents' evening for this coming Thursday (21st January) 4.15-7.15pm and have transferred all the appointments for last week to this rescheduled event.</p> <p><b>Year 9 GCSE options - survey of pupils</b></p> <p>At the start of next week, we will be sharing a presentation about KS4 preferences for parents and pupils to view. We will also be sharing a booklet on the process, containing information about the KS4 curriculum, including optional subjects. In the meantime, we have asked Year 9 pupils to complete a short survey about their initial ideas about GCSE preferences, which has been shared by the school email system. Year 9 pupils can access the survey here: <a href="https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gGfPFvBL70-g-tgugufqCler56VpwmJHi5b57tDY2i1UQjQwMjA4Mfc3MjRLTFM5MThUVkZSQTBOMS4u">https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gGfPFvBL70-g-tgugufqCler56VpwmJHi5b57tDY2i1UQjQwMjA4Mfc3MjRLTFM5MThUVkZSQTBOMS4u</a></p>
<p><b>Engagement and attendance</b></p>	<p>We are trying to obtain as much data as possible with regards to students' attendance to live lessons and engagement with remote learning in general. If we notice any issues, we will be ensuring that we contact students, via parents to explore any issues and provide additional support where required.</p> <p>Please be aware that if your child attends a scheduled live lesson, a notification will appear under achievements on the Astrea App stating that they have 'attended live lesson'. You will also see 'Did not attend live lesson' is logged and communicated this way. This data is used by the school to help monitor pupils' participation with the live lesson part of our provision and, although it does not affect overall attendance figures for your child, it is important that pupils make the most of the remote education on offer. Likewise, when pupils have engaged well in lessons, or have produced impressive work set remotely, a log will appear on the Astrea App for 'Engagement with remote learning' and, if there is evidence that a student has not been accessing and /or completing work set remotely, a similar log for 'Did not engage with remote learning will appear'.</p> <p>We would like to thank parents for their support in helping to ensure that pupils participate in the live lessons and other forms of remote learning.</p>

<p><b>Y11 Catch-up sessions</b></p>	<p>For those Year 11 pupils who have been invited to attend some catch-up tutoring, sessions have started this week. If, for any reason, your child is unable to attend the session then they are able to view the recorded tutor session: a video automatically loads in the Posts section of the catch-up team at the end of the lesson and is available for 20 days.</p> <p>However, due to the cancellation of Year 10 parents' evening last week which is now rescheduled for this Thursday (21st January) <b>there will be no Year 11 catch-up sessions running on Thursday afternoon.</b> The staff who run these sessions are teachers of Year 10 and will not be able to run these sessions this week. Thank you for your understanding regarding this.</p>
<p><b>Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children</b></p>	<p>This scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that all of our pupil premium children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted, and they do not have access to broadband at home.</p> <p><b>Who can get help:</b> Schools, trusts and local authorities (ordering for maintained schools) in England can request mobile data increases for disadvantaged children and young people in years 3 to 11 who are not able to attend school due to national lockdown restrictions. They must meet all 3 of these criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• do not have fixed broadband at home;</li> <li>• cannot afford additional data for their devices;</li> <li>• are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education.</li> </ul> <p>Schools, trusts and local authorities can also make requests for children and young people who meet the criteria above, and are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in any year group and have been advised to shield because they (or someone they live with) are clinically extremely vulnerable in any year group attending a hospital school.</li> </ul> <p>Mobile data increases are currently not available for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• care leavers who are not attending school or further education;</li> <li>• students in further education.</li> </ul> <p><b>Which mobile networks can increase data:</b> Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EE</li> <li>• O2</li> <li>• Sky Mobile</li> <li>• SMARTY</li> <li>• Tesco Mobile</li> <li>• Three</li> <li>• Virgin Mobile</li> <li>• Vodafone</li> </ul> <p>Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage.</p> <p><b>How to request a mobile data increase:</b> For each request, we need to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the name of the mobile phone account holder;</li> <li>• the number of the mobile device;</li> <li>• the mobile network of that device (for example Three).</li> </ul> <p>Cottenham Village College will then submit this information for processing. Each provider will vary in how quickly the process requests.</p> <p>Once a network provider has processed a data increase, they'll send a text message to the account holder. It's also possible to check the status of requests through our online service.</p> <p>Please send the required information through to <a href="mailto:emma.cornwell@astreacottenham.org">emma.cornwell@astreacottenham.org</a></p>