

Cottenham Village College Parent Weekly Newsletter

w/c 25th January 2021



<p>Attendance</p>	<p>Even though children are currently working remotely, we would like to remind you that all absences from online learning need to be reported to the school in the usual manner. The attendance team can be contacted by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone - 01954 288944 Option 2 • Email - attendance@astrecottenham.org • Astrea App <p>Please ensure when making contact that you clearly state the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child's name • Child's form • Reason for absence, including a brief description of symptoms <p>If the absence is COVID-19 related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure this is communicated to school • Provide the date of when the Track and Trace test was taken • Provide the outcome of the test
<p>Pastoral information</p>	<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>
<p>Assembly and PSHE</p>	<p>This week's assembly has been prepared by Mr Brown. It is about Edward Jenner and vaccinations. Thursday's PSHE session relates to how we communicate with each other and aims to dispel any ideas that using offensive language and remarks towards each other are acceptable if it is considered 'banter'.</p>
<p>Vulnerable and critical worker students on-site</p>	<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 studentservices@astrecottenham.org. We will then put in place the track and trace process.</p>
<p>Remote Learning</p>	<p>Thank you</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Feedback from our pupil survey about remote learning</p> <p>Overall, this has been very positive. Here are some key headlines from last week's survey (218 pupils completed the survey to date):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% attended live lessons. 92% felt that that work had made them think and they understood the work set. 75% of pupils thought they had 'just the right amount of work set' for them across the week. <p>We are always seeking to develop and improve our practice, but it was pleasing to see that overall, we are pitching the amount and difficulty of the work about right and that pupils can access their learning.</p> <p>Please encourage your son/daughter to complete this weekly survey so that we can continue to review our provision.</p>

	<p>Homework Based on pupil survey feedback we are continuing with our suspension of 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 at the end of this week to see whether it has had a positive impact.</p> <p>Balance of live and non-live learning 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> <p>Feedback during lockdown In line with best practice nationally, we are encouraging staff to use ‘whole-class feedback’ as a powerful way to engage pupils with their learning as it requires them to respond to and improve on, their work. This usually involves the teacher reviewing all answers to a set task, drawing out key teaching points and misconceptions from that review, and then building these into their next lesson to support pupils to reflect on their work. This may mean that a pupil may not receive an individual comment on each piece of work they submit, but they will be receiving feedback in a subsequent lesson, or by being asked to complete a subsequent review activity.</p>
<p>Parent feedback</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. If you wish to contribute and give your feedback, you can still do so using the following link: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gGfPFvBL70-q-gtugufqCqC4kX_ZK2RFk6I6dc159ipUODhNNDkySkpRUIFIRDhXNTVKMkZaNjIWRS4u</p> <p>Thank you to those who have already submitted your views to Ofsted using https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/ which is still active should you wish to contribute.</p> <p>Key headlines from the parental survey feedback so far: Overall, similar to the pupil survey, this has been very positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 88% say that the overall remote education provision has been good or very good • Several parents comment on the positive impact of live lessons on pupils’ engagement as well as their learning • The vast majority (80%) say the balance of live lessons and other activity is at least good • 95% say there is about the right amount of work set in most subjects • More than 90% suggest the pitch of the work is about right in most subjects <p>Thank you again for the responses. We will continue to review and act on this feedback, particularly where there are issues raised and in relation to providing greater detail around feedback and progress (see below on reporting to parents).</p>
<p>Reporting to parents</p>	<p>This week you will receive a summary report of your child’s engagement with remote learning so far this term. It will include attendance to live sessions, how many points awarded for engagement with remote learning, and how many concerns have been flagged up for engagement with resources outside of live sessions.</p> <p>We are currently reviewing how we will provide some more in-depth feedback over the coming weeks and will keep you informed when plans are finalised.</p>
<p>OFQUAL Exams Consultation</p>	<p>As you will be aware, the exams regulator (OFQUAL) has released a consultation document to gather comments and view about how GCSE, AS and A Level grades should be awarded. This consultation sets out some idea of the suggestions and asks for feedback. The consultation is open to all. Please find a link to the consultation if you wish to take part: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021</p>

**Year 9 KS4
(GCSE)
Preferences**

Tomorrow we will be sending out a virtual presentation and guidance booklet about KS4 preferences (otherwise known as 'GCSE options') to all Year 9 parents/carers and pupils. This will detail the process as well as provide information about each subject on offer alongside the core curriculum. In addition, pupils will be given opportunities to find out more about individual subjects at GCSE in their lessons over the coming couple of weeks.

You will shortly receive more detail about the following events coming up to support pupils' progress and their GCSE choices:

- Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 February – **parent consultation meetings** (this will be outlined in tomorrow's guidance and a separate letter and further detail will follow)
- **Guidance interviews** – available after half term to support pupils' decisions

Thank you to those pupils who have completed the KS4 Preferences survey. There is still time for pupils to complete the survey, which we use in helping get an initial idea of what pupils are keen to study. Please access it here: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gGfPFvBL70-q-gtugufqCler56VpwmJHi5b57tDY2i1UQjQwMjA4Mfc3MjRLTFM5MThUVkZSQTBOMS4u>