

<p>School closure during and after half term</p>	<p>Last week the Government announced that remote education and lockdown will continue until 8th March 2021. They also announced that schools will be closed for February half-term. We sent a parentmail last week asking for you to complete the LAs survey and if you require support for childcare over the half-term period. To contact Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Family Information Services telephone 03450 451 360. Please look out for the letter later this week about the track and trace arrangements over the half-term week.</p>
<p>Children’s Mental Health Week</p>	<p>1-7 February is Children’s Mental Health Week We have been paying close attention to how to support good mental health through our routine PSHE programme this half term, but we have also become aware of resources specifically designed to support parents for Children’s Mental Health Week. The link to these resources is here: https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/</p>
<p>Responding to parental queries</p>	<p>Our staff will be happy to try and support you with any queries you may have during this time. Please be aware, however, that our staff are working hard to prepare and deliver live and remote sessions, as well as supporting in the key worker provision. This may mean that they do not respond to you as quickly as usual.</p>
<p>Attendance and form time</p>	<p>We continue to run a compulsory form time session on a Monday and a Thursday. On Mondays, a link to the ‘welfare form’ is sent to all students during the form session. Those who do not attend and complete this form are contacted by a member of staff during the week so that we can provide support where necessary. Please be aware that, when we call, we do need to speak briefly to your son/daughter.</p>
<p>Assembly and PSHE</p>	<p>This week’s assembly has been prepared by Mrs Goudie. It’s ‘national storytelling week’ and Mrs Goudie reflects on how and why stories are important for us, and how they might be useful for us at the moment. A link to the assembly is here: https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/6375523c-b798-4df1-aa65-13e2fe41363a</p> <p>Miss Fisher, our school librarian, has made a list of free audiobooks for children which we thought you might find of interest.</p> <p><u>Top 10 Audiobooks for Kids</u> https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/audiobooks Includes: Charlotte's Web; The Hobbit; Coraline by Neil Gaiman; The Book of Dust, Vol 1 Le Belle Sauvage by Philip Pullman</p> <p><u>The Grave Yard by Neil Gaiman</u> A brilliant book read by Neil Gaiman https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Jp6n1xLnvo</p> <p><u>Puffin Stories</u> Watch authors reading from their latest books https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC9XXoFSuEuhuA5a-yTklZcyjk8Bv3i-b</p> <p><u>The Book of Hopes, Edited by Katherine Rundell</u> A collection of short stories, poems, essays and pictures has contributions from more than 110 children’s writers and illustrators, including Lauren Child, Anthony Horowitz, Greg James and Chris Smith, Michael Morpurgo, Liz Pichon, Axel Scheffler, Francesca Simon and Jacqueline Wilson. Available for free during this latest Lockdown https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/</p> <p>PHSE Theme of the Week The PSHE theme is ‘building positive relationships’ and Ms Bussingham is inviting pupils to consider how we maintain strong relationships with friends and family when we are physically apart.</p>

	<p>Parental Feedback on our RSE and Health Education Curriculum</p> <p>Thank you to all of you who have already responded to our survey about the Relationships and Sex Education curriculum. We would like to extend the opportunity to feedback via this survey until half term. If you would like to do so, please click on the link below: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gGfPFvBL70-q-gtugufqCjeuh5mXvYpBmo9FrHwhpTIUQTdXRIM2SVFaSFJEVEgyN1o5Q0ZBUUhBSS4u</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@astreacottenham.org. We will then put in place the track and trace process.</p>
<p>Remote Learning</p>	<p>Teams Notifications</p> <p>We would like to apologise to families you have been getting automatically generated updates from Teams that suggest that pupils have not completed assignments or tasks. We have existing, more nuanced systems for monitoring pupil engagement with remote learning which do not involve these automatically generated updates. Therefore, please ignore these Teams updates. We are working with our IT team to switch these off so they do not disturb you.</p> <p>‘Step away from the screen’</p> <p>We thought it would be useful to remind you that we are acting on feedback from pupils, parents and staff which suggests that screen time is a concern, particularly during these short, dark winter days. We will be asking for feedback after Wednesday to see whether this is positive and something we might want to continue with.</p> <p>A list of suggested, productive non-screen-related activities is available: https://www.astreacottenham.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Step-Away-Wednesday.pdf</p> <p>Homework</p> <p>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. Going forward, we hope that the information about interesting, but non-screen-related activities could be useful for families who want to engage pupils in learning in different ways during this period of lockdown.</p> <p>Balance of live and non-live learning</p> <p>Some have continued to remind 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</p> <p>This week, we are emphasising the importance of using electronic ways of praising pupils for their efforts or for the quality of their work on Teams. We hope that this will go some way to replace the multiple positive interactions that are possible in a classroom but are extremely hard to replicate remotely.</p>
<p>Year 9 KS4 (GCSE) Preferences</p>	<p>Last week we sent out details about KS4 preferences (otherwise known as ‘GCSE options’) to all Year 9 parents/carers and pupils. The guidance booklet can be found on the school website here: https://www.astreacottenham.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Options-Booklet-2021-1.pdf and the virtual presentation for pupils and parents is on YouTube here: https://youtu.be/dWFXBSMmVeM</p> <p>This week, pupils and parents will receive details about meetings with teachers to support pupils’ progress and their GCSE choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 10th (09.30-11.30am and 1-3pm) and Thursday 11th February (4-6.30pm) we will be holding parent consultation meetings (a separate letter will go out to Year 9 parents this week about making appointments) • Guidance interviews – available after half term to support pupils’ decisions

Cottenham Village College Parent Weekly Newsletter

w/c 1st February 2021



	<p>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-qgtugufqCler56VpwmJHi5b57tDY2i1UQjQwMjA4Mfc3MjRLTFM5MThUVkZSQTBOmS4u</p> <p>The KS4 Preferences form to fill in to submit pupils' preferences will be going home next week, once pupils have had time to consider the guidance carefully and discussions have happened about options at home.</p>
Year 11 Catch-up sessions	<p>This Wednesday, as part of the 'Step away from the screen' afternoon, catch-up sessions in maths and French will not run. This gives pupils who would normally be attending these sessions, the chance to pursue one or more of our suggested screen-free activities fully and doesn't ask them to return to the screen after only one hour.</p> <p>All other catch-up sessions will run as normal this week, and all catch-up sessions will run as normal next week.</p>