

# Cottenham Village College Parent Weekly Newsletter

## w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021



<b>School reopening announcement</b>	<p>Following the government’s announcement on Monday 22 February, all pupils will be returning to school from Monday 8 March. However, in order to conduct the required testing of pupils on site, we will be staggering the return of pupils to school across the week. This means that some pupils will not be returning to school on Monday 8 March. We are currently working on the detailed plans for this and will let you know the schedule for pupils’ return at the beginning of next week.</p>
<b>Attendance and form time</b>	<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>
<b>Pupils attending school – school uniform update</b>	<p>Until Friday 5 March, pupils attending school on site are <b>not</b> required to wear school uniform. However, all pupils on site <b>will</b> be expected to wear the usual school uniform again from Monday 8 March.</p>
<b>Assembly and PSHE</b>	<p>This week’s assembly has been prepared by Mr Abbott. The theme of both the assembly and the PSHE sessions this week is fair trade. The link to the assembly is here:  <a href="https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/13cfb508-347d-4bee-9aa5-45a0773a117d">https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/13cfb508-347d-4bee-9aa5-45a0773a117d</a></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>Remote Learning</b>	<p><b>‘Step away from the screen’</b></p> <p>Our ‘step away from the screen’ hours before half term were very positively received by pupils. We had lots of lovely feedback from families and anecdotes about how pupils had enjoyed their time away from the screen. We particularly enjoyed seeing some of the pictures that pupils sent in. This week, we are going have a ‘step away’ from the screen on <b>Friday 26 February, Period 5 – 2.05 - 3.05</b>. We will continue to rotate the day of the week for the ‘step away from the screen’ so that we do not hit the same lesson each week. Fingers crossed for some of this lovely spring-like weather we have enjoyed from time-to-time on Friday.</p> <p>The list of previously suggested non-screen-related activities is available here:  <a href="https://www.astreacottenham.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Step-Away-Wednesday.pdf">https://www.astreacottenham.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Step-Away-Wednesday.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Continuing to develop practice for remote learning</b></p> <p>We now know that all pupils will be returning to school on the week beginning 8 March. This does not mean that what pupils and staff have learned about remote learning will be lost. We will now be ready to use what we have learned and be ready to teach remotely at the drop of a hat (although we sincerely hope this will not be necessary!). We just wanted to say a <b>massive thank you</b> for all you have done to support your son/daughter while they have been educated remotely.</p>
<b>World Book Day Thursday 4 March</b>	<p>Next Thursday is World Book Day and we will be encouraging all pupils to spend some of the day reading and enjoying books! This day will be a non-teaching day: a range of suggested activities will be provided. Time will also be available for pupils to use to complete all tasks and assignments in preparation for a smooth return to face-to-face education in school. We will also provide time during this day for pupils to engage with guidance about how the return to school will work.</p>
<b>Year 9 KS4 (GCSE) Preferences</b>	<p>Year 9 pupils continue to engage with the KS4 preferences process (otherwise known as ‘GCSE options’). The <b>guidance booklet</b> can be found on the school website here:  <a href="https://www.astreacottenham.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Options-Booklet-2021-1.pdf">https://www.astreacottenham.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Options-Booklet-2021-1.pdf</a> and the <b>virtual presentation</b> for pupils and parents is on YouTube here:  <a href="https://youtu.be/dWFXBSMmVeM">https://youtu.be/dWFXBSMmVeM</a></p>

	<p>Before half term, we had the pleasure of meeting parents and pupils to support pupils' progress and guide them in their GCSE choices. We are now in the process of organising <b>guidance interviews</b>, where they have been requested, to further support pupils' decisions. If you require a guidance interview, please contact your child's Form Tutor or the Head of Year.</p> <p>The KS4 <b>Preferences form</b> to fill in to submit pupils' preferences has been sent home. The deadline for completion is Friday 12 March.</p>
<p><b>Y11 and KS3 catch-up sessions</b></p>	<p>Y11 catch-up sessions continue as normal this week, and our KS3 maths and English sessions launch this week as well. You will have been sent a letter if your child has been invited to attend KS3 sessions for either subject. Their catch-up 'team' will appear on their Teams page this week.</p> <p>Thank you for your support of these sessions and your child's attendance at these, if they have been invited. Don't forget, if there is a reason why your child cannot make a session they will be recorded and available for your child to view for around 20 days. This is an added layer of support made possible whilst we run catch-up sessions remotely and online.</p> <p>Following the announcement that pupils will return to school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, a letter confirming how and when catch-up sessions will run from this date onwards will be sent home as soon as possible. For the moment, they continue as live online sessions (which can also be viewed at other times as they are recorded and available on the Teams page).</p>
<p><b>The CVC Anthology</b></p>	<p>Staff have been impressed and delighted at the quality of work that our pupils are achieving. Their hard work and commitment in challenging circumstances is something we wish to acknowledge and celebrate.</p> <p>Don't forget that our 2021 CVC Anthology offers our pupils an opportunity to submit work and to contribute to this publication. Please do encourage your child to share work that they are proud of with their teachers. Our staff will also be able to nominate excellent work that they have seen from pupils which are a wonderful example of work in their subject.</p> <p>We will share the CVC Anthology later in the academic year and we look forward to celebrating all the talent, knowledge and creativity that our pupils have!</p>