

Cottenham Village College Parent Weekly Newsletter

w/c 7th February 2021



School closure during and after half term	<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>
Attendance and form time	<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>
Pupils attending school – school uniform update	<p>Due to the current cold snap, we have decided that students will not be required to wear school uniform when on-site, but will instead wear warm, sensible clothing that they are comfortable in when working in the classroom or being active outside. We have spoken to the students currently on-site about this decision and sent a letter to parents. Students will be expected to wear the usual school uniform again when we fully re-open on or after 8 March.</p>
Assembly and PSHE	<p>This week's assembly has been prepared by Ms. Farzad. The theme of both the assembly and the PSHE sessions this week is equality. Ms. Farzad has chosen to exemplify the importance of treating people equally by focusing on the LGBTQ+ community to coincide with LGBTQ+ History Month. The link to the assembly is here: https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/80d5631b-7249-44af-be66-d9cc560ed9b8</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>
Vulnerable and critical worker students on-site	<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>
Remote Learning	<p>'Wonderful Wednesday'</p> <p>We wanted to remind you that teachers are not setting any live lessons or remote learning on Wednesday 10 February. This, of course, does not mean that pupils are not being educated on the day. Instead, it provides an opportunity for all pupils to catch up on what has been an extraordinarily busy half term and to make sure they can make the most of a well-earned rest at half term. Across the day, pupils will be provided with suggested activities to support them with making sure they are up to date. We have also produced a booklet filled with curriculum enrichment activities, which we hope will spur their interests and motivate them to find out more about subjects or topics they enjoy. As part of the day's activities, we would encourage all pupils go do something physically active if it is safe, they let you know, and it is within the COVID guidelines. There will also be an opportunity for pupils to 'step away from the screen' for at least an hour.</p> <p><u>"Wonderful Wednesday" Pupil Booklet</u></p> <p>Year 9 pupils have a particular focus on Wednesday as they focus on choosing their preferences. We intend that they should be able to engage with some of the other activities in the booklet as well across the day. For more information that it specifically for Year 9 please see below.</p>

	<p>‘Step away from the screen’ Our experiment with ‘step away from the screen’ last Wednesday seemed to be very positively received. 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 to incorporate a ‘step away from the screen’ hour into our ‘Wonderful Wednesday’ on 10 February (see below). After half term we are going to have a ‘step away from the screen’ afternoon once a week.</p> <p>Thank you for your feedback: key parental messages about remote learning shared with staff Thank you for all your feedback on all aspects of our remote learning provision this half term. We have continued to routinely share key pieces of feedback from both parents and pupils about how we can continue to improve our provision. This week, we reminded staff about ‘keeping it simple’, giving breaks between live lessons, setting clear reminders not to work after the end of the lesson time and not setting homework. Please do keep giving us feedback on where we are getting it right, but where we need to develop practice further – it’s really useful for helping us to improve.</p>
<p>Year 9 KS4 (GCSE) Preferences</p>	<p>This week, Year 9 pupils will continue to engage with the KS4 preferences process (otherwise known as ‘GCSE options’). 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, we look forward to meeting parents and pupils to support pupils’ progress and guide them in their GCSE choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 60% have signed up to appointments on Wednesday 10th February (09.30-11.30am and 1-3pm) and many more have signed up for Thursday 11th February (4-6.30pm). If you have missed any details about making appointments, please contact the school. • Guidance interviews – available after half term to support pupils’ decisions <p>The KS4 Preferences form to fill in to submit pupils’ preferences has now been sent home. There is no rush to complete this before half term – the deadline is Friday 12 March.</p>
<p>Year 11 Catch-up sessions</p>	<p>To confirm, catch-up sessions will run as normal this week, including on Wednesday after school. 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>Announcing the CVC Anthology</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. During the lockdown last academic year, Mr Langley ran a wonderful lockdown anthology competition and we saw some wonderful creative writing submitted from our pupils.</p> <p>This time we want to celebrate the unbelievable talent we have in our pupils across a wide range of subjects. We will be launching the 2021 CVC Anthology with our pupils and they will have the opportunity to submit work and to contribute to this publication. 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>