

<p>School reopening announcement</p>	<p>As communicated last week, 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 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 8 March – Year 11 (& remain across the week) • Tuesday 9 March – Year 10 (& remain across the week) • Wednesday 10 March – Years 7 & 8 (& remain across the week) • Thursday 11 March – Year 9 (& remain across the week) • Friday 12 March – all pupils on site <p>You will receive a letter from the principal about these arrangements tomorrow, which contains a link to a short presentation, along with a guidance booklet for pupils and parents. These documents will detail everything you will need to know about the specific arrangements for pupils’ safe return to school and for testing.</p>
<p>Attendance and form time</p>	<p>Please be aware that this Thursday’s form time will not be a live session. 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>Pupils attending school – school uniform and equipment update</p>	<p>Until Friday 5 March, pupils attending school on site are not required to wear school uniform. However, all pupils on site will be expected to wear the usual school uniform again from Monday 8 March. It might be worth trying on the CVC uniform to check it all still fits, and that pupils have all the correct equipment ready to start face-to-face lessons.</p>
<p>Assembly and PSHE</p>	<p>This week’s assembly has been prepared by Miss Parker. The theme of both the assembly and part of the focus for Thursday is World Book Day. The link to the assembly is here: https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/98e979e7-7a65-47c6-b398-6a2a5e77bcf5</p> <p>The PSHE session for this week has been sent to tutors to share with their form groups. The session is led by Mr Holt and is about dealing with change, especially with the return to the school in mind.</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>‘Step away from the screen’</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 to have a ‘step away’ from the screen as the final hour of Thursday 4 March, Period 5 – 2.05 - 3.05. Fingers crossed for some more of this lovely spring-like weather we enjoyed at the weekend. A link to activities and guidance for Thursday is detailed in the section below.</p> <p>Continuing to develop practice for remote learning</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 massive thank you for all you have done to support your son/daughter while they have been educated remotely.</p>

<p>‘Thoughtful Thursday’ on World Book Day: Thursday 4 March</p>	<p>This Thursday is a non-teaching day where pupils will have time to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Read the guidance information in the Parent and Pupil Guidance booklet about when and how they will return to the school site next week. Mark World Book Day - there are a range of suggested activities shared in the attachment. Use time in the day to complete tasks and assignments in preparation for a smooth return to face-to-face education in school. <p>More detailed guidance and suggestions of activities for pupils to complete (either as part of World Book Day or the ‘step away from the screen’ hour) is available in this document: https://www.astreacottenham.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Thoughtful-Thursday-Pupil-Booklet.pdf</p>
<p>Year 9 KS4 (GCSE) Preferences</p>	<p>Year 9 pupils 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>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 and conducting guidance interviews, 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 Preferences form to fill in to submit pupils’ preferences has been sent home. The deadline for completion is Friday 12 March.</p>
<p>Y11 and KS3 catch-up sessions</p>	<p>This week: All sessions continue online this week as per the timetable shared with families.</p> <p>From next week: As there is a phased return of pupils onto the school site over the course of next week, we will continue to run the catch-up sessions for KS3 and Year 11 pupils as remote online sessions. Although this means that for some days, pupils will be in school and travelling home when the sessions usually take place, all sessions will be recorded and so pupils can watch these sessions in their own time when they are able to.</p> <p>This allows us to still provide catch-up sessions whilst we ensure that a robust testing programme can be delivered as pupils return to lessons on the school site. We wanted to avoid cancelling a week of sessions and this allows us to be able to still offer catch-up during what will be a busy week!</p> <p>From the week beginning Monday 15 March the catch-up sessions will run in school and buses will resume at 4.20pm. Letters will be sent home to any pupils invited to attend catch-up sessions to confirm the arrangements from this date.</p> <p>Thank you for your support of these sessions and your child’s attendance at these, if they have been invited. The recorded sessions for next week’s catch-up lessons will be available for 20 days.</p>
<p>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.</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>