

Dear Parent/Carer

At the end of an extraordinary half term I would like to acknowledge how hard the staff and students have continued to work over the past few weeks, recognising that it has not been the easiest of times as uncertainty continues to rein over us and we are looking ahead to at least two more weeks of remote learning. I have never failed to be amazed by the tenacity and resilience of the students during this period, or by the skills, talents, and patience of the staff as we all navigate this remarkable educational experience together.

I have written to the students in Years 11 and 13 to give some reassurance about how their grades will be calculated this year, as all schools want to tell their students what they will look like. The Department for Education (DfE) and Ofqual tell us that they will report decisions based on the consultation at the end of February; this is when all schools will know more.

Year 9 Options

All classes have now had their Options introduction lessons. An email was sent on Wednesday 10 February to all Year 9 parents with the electronic link to the Microsoft Forms online. A previous link was also sent via the weekly newsletter on Friday 29 January and is also available on the school website. If you haven't done so already, this needs to be completed by 4pm on Wednesday 24 February 2021. Any questions should be sent to andrew.wilkinson@carres.uk

Online Safety- part three

Please see attached part three of our user-friendly guides for parents on keeping your child safe online. The advice is practical and perhaps eye opening for all of us who think, as parents, we know how our children operate when they are online.

Year 9 Exams

These were scheduled to take place week commencing 8 March. For obvious reasons these exams are now postponed until a later date. We will provide more information as and when we have further details on the planned return to school and arrangements for the assessment of Year 11 and 13 students.

Year 7 Parents' Consultation

You should by now have received a letter from Mr Newell, Head of Year 7, outlining the arrangements for the online consultations taking place on Wednesday 24 February. A reminder that booking of appointments for this event will close at 7pm on Tuesday 23 February.

Mr Newell will be conducting appointments for his PE teaching group on the evening, but any parent wishing to have a meeting with him in his Head of Year capacity is encouraged to contact the office to request this. If there are spaces available, an appointment will be scheduled. If this is not possible Mr Newell will make contact by telephone or email instead.

Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Students

If you have given consent for your child to have a rapid flow test and they have been in school, they will have completed two tests, which is in line with the Government expectations. The opportunity for your son to have tests each week, after half term, is also available. If you would like this to happen then the testing slots are Mondays and/or

Thursdays from 1pm. Please email stefanie.ellis@carres.uk if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity.

If your child requires supervision with his online learning in school in the first two weeks after half term, please be sure to complete [this form](#).

Sleaford Larder

During this academic year we have been able to co-ordinate two donations to the Sleaford Larder foodbank. As we are currently teaching and learning away from the school site, we are unable to organise our normal collection. If anybody would like to continue to support the work of the Sleaford Larder in these challenging times then you are welcome to use the following link to make a financial donation. Follow the link and select 'Community Larder'.

This will ensure your donation goes to the food bank

<https://newlifesleaford.churchsuite.com/donate>

Covid 19 Enquiries

For those students who have been in school over the last week, should you test positive for Covid 19 during the holiday period, please let us know as soon as possible by contacting our hotline: 07476 984503 or email Covid19@carres.uk

From Jo Slesser (Chair of Governors)

Whilst remote learning and support have become the norm, it is not how any of us want our students to be taught and we will all be happier and less exhausted when they are back in our classrooms. The powers that be have repeatedly said that day will be 8 March and that schools will have time to make the necessary plans. I sincerely hope that they stick by their words this time, but recent history doesn't bring confidence. With that in mind I hope you all can get a good break next week. Hopefully two more weeks of remote learning and our students will be back where they need to be. School and classrooms will still be socially distanced and there will still be challenges, but I really hope that looking forward things will begin to get better and that together we can build that new 'normal'. I'm not completely sure how that is going to look yet, but I know that the Carre's family will make it work, because through everything that's been thrown at us, be it contracting Covid-19 through to the ever-changing direction from the government, we have all supported each other and ensured that our students get the best education and support any parent could ask for.

And finally....thank you for your continued support, kind messages and efforts with home-schooling. I hope that you can all have some time to switch off from machines next week and that staff and students can all have a rest ahead of the next term, and whatever that brings.

N M Law
Headteacher