

Dear Parent/Carer

I continue to be proud at how well the Carre's community has risen to the challenge of online learning and am confident that when the time comes to return to school, we will adapt to the next set of challenges equally as well. Hopefully, the students will have taken time out today from their screens and taken the opportunity to do something different, and perhaps by focusing on the positives we can change our outlook for the better.

National delay to schools reopening

On Wednesday this week the Prime Minister announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term break and instead said he hoped it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity and is predicated on the government achieving its target of vaccinating everyone in the four most vulnerable groups with their first dose by 15 February. Whilst we are disappointed not to see students back in school in February, we welcome the fact that the government has given education settings, as well as students, parents, and carers at least two weeks' notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education. We are given to believe that a phased return of year groups might take place but will confirm this with you when we know more.

We will, of course, remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers after February half-term, as we are now. All other students will continue to receive remote education via our daily live lessons and tutor sessions at home. Education attendance restrictions are to be reviewed again in mid-February when the government will look at when more students can be brought back into schools and further education. We will take this information to continue planning our Covid -19 mass testing programme in school for students' return.

Examinations consultation

Today is the last day all stakeholders can contribute to the DFE/Ofqual consultation on how Year 11 and 13 students will be awarded their GCSE, A level and Vocational grades this year. If you haven't already completed it you can find the consultation on GCSEs and A Levels [here](#). An accompanying consultation on Vocational qualifications (BTECs and CTECs) can be found [here](#)

Parents' Consultations

A letter has already been sent to Year 10 parents about the parents' consultation on 3 February with the details regarding how to book an appointment. For all parents, I should remind you that when we have parents' consultations during the pandemic there will be no live lessons during the afternoon of the event. This is an opportunity for students to catch up with their work, or consolidate what they have done, exercise or do something else that will help them to keep fresh away from a screen.

Supporting your child online

We hope you find the attached guide for parents/carers online safety useful. With students spending so much time online we want parents to be alert to the ways that students of various ages may be influenced. As staff (and as parents/carers), many of us in school have found the

information provided very helpful. This first guide focuses on the (over) sharing of personal information, images and videos.

Increased data allowances

The scheme that temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks has been extended to cover additional operators. This is so that disadvantaged children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted, and they do not have access to broadband at home.

Students and their families must meet all 3 of these criteria:

- do not have fixed broadband at home;
- cannot afford additional data for their devices;
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education.

We can also make a request for students who meet the criteria above, and are in any year group and have been advised to shield because they (or someone they live with) are clinically extremely vulnerable

The operators that have signed up to the scheme are currently EE, O2, Sky Mobile, SMARTY, Tesco Mobile, Three, Virgin Mobile and Vodafone. If you meet the criteria, please sign up for the scheme by completing [this form](#).

Key Worker registration

Please don't forget to complete [this form](#) if your child needs to work in school any day between now and half term as the child of a key worker/vulnerable student.

Many thanks for your continued support both of all staff's efforts and energies and of your child's engagement.

N M Law
Headteacher