

15 January 2021

Dear Parent

TCA update letter – 15 January 2021

We are now at the end of the second week of the school closure period. I have been particularly impressed this week with the way that students are accessing lessons and engaging with the work set. Remote learning is the new normal and I hope that this is becoming more routine for everyone.

Remote learning

Engagement in remote learning this week has continued to be **very** good. We continue to track attendance and monitor engagement in live lessons as we would to normal lessons and will actively follow up attendance and engagement.

From Wednesday 20 January all students will be required to log into their school account for all Microsoft Teams live events. Please ensure that your **child is able to log on to Teams and the schools remote learning platform by Tuesday 19th January at the latest.** This will be their A0XXXX@theacademycarlton.org username and their normal school password. Further guidance on this can be found [here](#). If your child has any issues with a username and or password, please contact ictrequests@theacademycarlton.org

We are making this change in order to enhance the learning experience, including being able to speak to students and enabling them to hand in work easily. We want staff to be able to mark work and provide feedback to students and this move will aid this being possible with ease. Please ensure your child knows and can use their login details as soon as possible and not later than 19 January.

It is our expectation that students participate in the live lessons and complete work and homework set as they would normally in school. This should see most students spending around 6 hours a day on their studies, with those in Years 10-13 more as required as part of GCSE and A Level courses. Our website will shortly contain a breakdown of our learning provision, providing a clear map of what we see a successful school day with homework and enrichment opportunities along with live learning.

Informing us of student absence and school response to low attendance to lessons

If your child is not able to access lessons due to absence, please inform us as per the normal attendance processes. We are tracking attendance to lessons on a lesson by lesson basis, and we will message parents early in the day if their child does not engage in lessons. Further non-attendance will result in phone calls and subsequent home visits as needed. It is an expectation that all students engage in learning every day.

Accessing remote lessons

We are **not** aware of anyone who is no longer able to access our remote provision. If this is the case, please contact Mrs Watson, Assistant Head either via the school text inbox, by phone or email to l.watson@theacademycarlton.org and we will endeavour to assist you.

Assemblies

Assemblies are a great way for the school community to come together. I am pleased to say that over 80% of students logged in for the live assembly this week on the topic of online safety. Please take the time to watch this with your child if they haven't managed to view it already. Next week's assembly will be on the topic of health and well-being and will be posted on Satchel:One as a live event.

Inter-House Events

Inter-House competitions were launched on Wednesday as flexible tasks on Satchel:One. From a 6 week 'couch to 2.5K' training plan to creating a tribute to honour and celebrate a hero of the pandemic, getting immersed with creative writing (Years 7- 9) or completing a book bingo challenge, there is something for everyone. All

students will be encouraged to take part as a way of continuing to develop their personal development during this period of school closure. They can choose to enter as many competitions as they wish. Full details regarding each competition and how to submit entries are on Satchel:One. In the next two weeks, we are launching a wider range of after school 'virtual Opportunities' for students in all year groups to take part in as our on-line extracurricular offer.

Provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable groups

We will continue to run this provision each week. A Microsoft Form will be shared each Monday to be completed by 12pm on Wednesday to sign up for provision the following week. You can find guidance on critical worker status and vulnerable groups from the link below: [Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Free school meals and vouchers

Students in all years who are in receipt of free school meals will receive a £15 Tesco voucher from school for each week they are not in school. These will be sent to you by text message as before. If you have not received these for the first three weeks of term, please contact us via the main office.

Testing

Information regarding Testing can be found on the front of our website and the current testing arrangements for those attending the critical worker provision continue. As a reminder, please do ensure that you have completed the [consent form](#) on our website if you wish your child to be tested, if this becomes available to them.

Communication

It is important to remember that whilst our school doors are closed, lines of communication are fully open. Our form tutors are the first point of contact and are there to provide support and guidance as are our Heads of House. The news section of our website has all the latest information and updates and do follow us on Twitter @Carlton_Academy.

On a final note, thank you to all of you for your messages of support and thanks over the last week. Staff really appreciate this feedback under this new way of working. Having completed our second week of remote learning we will be shortly sending out a survey to parents and students. This will be an opportunity for families to provide feedback on our provision and make us aware of any access issues to live lessons that students may have. In the meantime, do contact the school as a matter of urgency if for any reason your child cannot access the online offer due to device or internet access.

Thank you for your ongoing support,



Ms Egwuma

Head of School