



29 January 2021

Dear Parent

TCA update letter – 29 January 2021

I hope you and your families are keeping well.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirmed that schools will not return to full face-to-face education after the February half-term and that the current attendance restrictions will remain in place until 8 March at the earliest. Whilst I feel we responded timely to the last big announcement in relation to the closing of schools we are indeed grateful for the notice on this occasion. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you again for your support and that we should be proud of what we are achieving and will continue to achieve whilst this pandemic is at large. I do look forward to a time when things are back to normal but accept that this may not be for a while.

Last Tuesday students in Year 9-13 heard a presentation from the Holocaust Education Trust. The event was both powerful and emotive and gave us all the chance to hear the first-hand testimony of Holocaust Survivor, Eve Kugler. We as a community have to also acknowledge that first-hand testimonials will not be available for us forever, making this a truly memorable moment. The whole school assembly this week was also an opportunity to learn and reflect on the significance of Holocaust Memorial Day in the context of the theme 'Be the light in the darkness'.

Remote learning

This week we have introduced the capacity to deliver online lessons via Teams meetings to complement Teams live events. Teams meetings provide the ability to deliver lessons which can include the use of microphones and therefore verbal questioning and feedback which will enhance our teaching and learning provision further. To date we have been very impressed with students conduct and behaviour during this remote learning time. We will of course contact parents directly should any matters arise that do not meet our expectations.

From Monday 1 February the main vehicle for accessing lessons will be the students' Teams calendar. Mr Byrne delivered an assembly on this to all year groups on Thursday and has also shared the links to the 'How to' guides found below which are also featured on the academy's YouTube channel.

- Teams calendars - <https://youtu.be/fVqLvS4gmjQ>
- Teams meeting - <https://youtu.be/QRaZ4YWnTi0>
- Assignments - <https://youtu.be/S8GMAM2xlA0>
- Submitting work via private channels - https://youtu.be/fpcHu_xM5wk

Thank you all for the replies to the Parent and Student survey that went out last week. Your feedback was helpful and constructive as always. The responses were overwhelmingly very positive, and we will use this feedback to continue to further develop our offering. Lockdown has also provided us all with opportunities to develop a new set of skills encompassing delivering of lessons through the Office365 suite of programmes in particular Microsoft Teams. It is also important to recognise that you as parents are supporting your children in their school work like never before. Moreover, together we are helping them to develop a new set of skills for now and the future. Skills that they will undoubtedly use in the coming months, years and their lives.



Due to recent changes, we will need to carry out some system changes to ensure our provision runs smoothly. This will take place between Friday 5 – Monday 8 February 2021. During this period students will be set work by their teachers in advance. Students will still be able to access this via Teams Assignments and Satchel:One. Work will be set for Periods 1-3 on both days. No lessons will be set for Periods 4 and 5 on Friday 5 and Monday 8 February to give students an opportunity to complete the following:

- Revisit prior learning as necessary and complete any unfinished tasks and DIRT.
- Complete the wellbeing survey
- Complete Inter-house competitions, gaining evidence towards Pledges.
- DT upcycling competition – [D&T Upcycling Competition.pdf \(theacademycarlton.org.uk\)](https://theacademycarlton.org.uk)

PSHE

From the week beginning 1 February, students will be expected to attend PSHE sessions on Tuesday each week at 11am. This will cover a range of topics as we would in normal times. Next week is also Children's Mental Health week. The Carlton Academy want students to be open about how they are feeling, and our staff are ready to support if necessary. It is important to discuss mental health with your child to diminish the stigma around it. During this unprecedented time, resilience and motivation are key. There are many self-help websites available to families but we would recommend looking at [Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families](https://www.annafreud.org/) for guidance on supporting our young people. There is also a student wellbeing form to be completed as a flexible task on Satchel:One.

Virtual Opportunities Programme

This week we have sent an expression of interest form for our virtual opportunities offer. The deadline for all returns is Monday 1 February. We will then collate this information and finalise the offer, with Opportunities starting the week commencing 22 February 2021.

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

Attendance and engagement has continued to be very good this week. If your child is not able to access lessons due to absence, please inform us as per the normal attendance processes. We continue to track attendance to lessons on a lesson by lesson basis. Parents will be messaged if their child does not engage in lessons and 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.

Free school meals and vouchers

Students in all years who are in receipt of free school meals will receive a further £30 Tesco voucher from school next week. This will cover the weeks of 8 and 15 February (half term week). Further vouchers for the weeks 22 February and 1 March will be sent to you in due course.

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. It is vital that you do not send students into school if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 or are in a contact of anyone who has tested positive.

Thank you for your ongoing support,



Ms Egwuma
Head of School