



12 February 2021

Dear Parent

### **TCA update letter – 12 February 2021**

I hope you and your families are keeping well. As the first half of the spring term comes to an end, I am writing to give you an update. Today also marks the Chinese New Year and I would like to take this opportunity to wish members of the Carlton family that are celebrating today, a Happy New Year.

First and foremost, students have completed six full weeks of remote learning with great success. They have shown incredible resilience, motivation and an ability to adapt to this new way of learning. We have seen a successful transition to a more comprehensive use of the Office365 tools and Teams which allow the delivery of high quality teaching and learning, assessment and feedback. We will continue to refine and develop this over the coming weeks to provide students with the best remote offer we can.

The increased access to more functions in Teams as a response to parent and student feedback and has clearly enhanced students' ability to actively engage in their learning and support progress. As part of this students should continue to access and submit work through their Teams channels and Teams Assignments. 'How to guides' can be found on our YouTube channel [here](#).

### **Government announcement**

We are expecting a Government announcement on the 22 February 2021 in relation to schools reopening. Until then we know that schools will be closed until at least the 8 March 2021 and we will therefore continue to be open in the remote way that we have done so far this year. We will of course communicate any changes as soon as we are able.

### **Summer 2021 qualifications**

Ofqual have also announced that the 22 February is the confirmed date for the publication of the full guidance on how examination results will be calculated this year. Students in Years 10, 11 and 13 that were due to sit exams this summer should continue to work hard, submitting high quality work to their teachers, so that they are prepared for whatever eventualities this may bring. We will write to students and families once we have had an opportunity to full review this guidance.

### **Homework**

Next half term's homework booklets for students in Years 7-10 are available to access through the school website. These should be used to support remote learning, as memory and retrieval aids or as directed by subject teachers. Homework for students in Years 11-13 will be directed through Teams by subject teachers. In recognition of the students' hard work and efforts during this half term, we have taken the decision not to set homework for the majority of students over the holiday period. For those students in examination years, home work will be set as directed by staff as they still have to ensure they are prepared for some form of formal assessments.

### **World Book Day**

World Book Day on the 4 March 2021 will be a little different this year. We are still planning a number of activities that all students will engage with, in order to recognise the importance of this day. After half term



we will be launching the Bookface and a book emoji competition. Further details on these competitions, other activities and the launch of our remote library will be shared after the break.

### **PSHE and Careers**

Our PSHE focus for next half term will be careers with the first assembly being on National Careers Week (1–7 March). During Careers Week students in Years 7-10 will register for Unifrog for which students in Years 11-13 are already registered. There will also be timetabled training sessions delivered to students and further details will follow.

Unifrog enables students to research areas of interest and access information regarding career paths. The platform also supports the writing of CVs and personal statements as well as recording key skills. Bringing together guidance on careers, apprenticeships, university and college courses, as well as online courses (MOOCs).

Students wishing to receive further guidance and advice around careers and their next steps should contact Mr McArdle, our careers advisor [s.mcardle@theacademycarlton.org](mailto:s.mcardle@theacademycarlton.org).

### **Virtual Opportunities Programme**

From the week commencing 22 February 2021, students in all year groups will be able to take part in our virtual opportunities offer. Students will access these weekly sessions via their Teams calendar and we will look to widen our offer once the students return to school.

Tuesdays 3:00 - 3:45pm Performing Arts (Music, Dance & Drama on a rolling programme)

Wednesdays 3:00 - 3:45pm Cook along

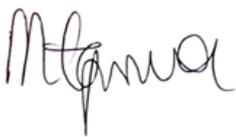
Thursdays 3:00 - 3:45pm Couch to 2.5k training

### **Testing Information regarding**

Testing information 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. Over the half term period, please report any cases of students testing positive to [s.wall@theacademycarlton.org](mailto:s.wall@theacademycarlton.org)

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you a happy and restful half term break. School resumes remotely on **Monday 22 February 2021**.

Thank you for your ongoing support,



Ms Egwuma  
**Head of School**