

15th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are thrilled with the engagement of our students on the Remote Learning Curriculum. From Monday 18th January, all students will be accessing 'live lessons' from their teachers via Microsoft TEAMS. Students will follow their normal timetable of **five** periods a day and all lessons will commence in line with the usual Academy day. Lessons will last for **50 minutes** in total. Links for the lesson and associated resources will be shared via Class Charts. There will be no live lesson for Core PE, instead the PE department will be sharing fitness challenges via Class Charts and Twitter.

'Monday Morning Well-being' and Form Time via Microsoft TEAMS

We recently introduced our weekly well-being survey via Class Charts. This allows us to track engagement, the suitability of the work set and the well-being of our students. We are really pleased with how the students have engaged with this so far and have been able to use the information to support students where necessary. This will be a regular weekly survey and all students will access this during Form Time at 8.45am on a Monday morning.

Students will also access Collective Worship on their scheduled assembly day each week. TEAMS links will be shared via Class Charts.

Monday – Year 11

Tuesday – Year 10

Wednesday – Year 9

Thursday – Year 8

Friday – Year 7

It is now essential that students, with your support, access all of their lessons daily and complete the work required. We will be monitoring the attendance and engagement of students each lesson and communicating regularly with home to celebrate achievement and ensure that everyone is giving their 'Personal Best.' It is also important that we maintain healthy communication between parents, carers and the Academy during these difficult times. With this in mind, we will be recording a Q&A session each week in response to questions or concerns from parents. If you have a question or concern about remote learning, please email them directly to remoteteachingquestions@astn.uk by 1.00pm on a Friday. Each Monday we will upload a recorded response to your questions to the home page of our website www.theacademyofstnicholas.org.uk.

Children of Critical Workers

Schools have been asked to continue to provide care for children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot safely be cared for at home. We have limited places and have requested that parents/carers provide evidence from their work place that they meet the critical worker definition [Children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/critical-workers) Please email this information to farrellyl@astn.uk

Y11 and Y13 Examinations

The Government announced that summer examinations will not go ahead as planned this year. We fully understand how disappointing this is for our students who have been working so hard. However, it is essential that this hard work continues (online and when we fully re-open) as, again, it is highly likely that this work will go some way towards contributing towards their final grade. Whilst the Secretary of State for Education has yesterday announced that exam grades will be awarded by schools, we have limited information about this. All students must continue to work hard and complete everything that is asked of them online.

Class Charts App

Class Charts is an online system which teachers use to track achievement and behaviour throughout the school day. We believe in working closely with parents and one of the key benefits of using Class Charts is that we can securely share your child's achievement and behaviour report with you and so keep you up to date in real-time. We have recently added a well-being feature to the system that provides teachers, students, and parents with a simple and easy way to report and highlight concerns they may have around wellbeing. We are asking that your child completes a brief questionnaire on a Monday morning during form time. As a parent you are also able to make a response about your child that will remain confidential between yourself and the school. Each child has a unique access code enabling you to login. The access code for Class Charts has been sent home previously. If you need support with your access code, then please contact your child's Head of Year via email.

Free School Meals

For those who have requested them, food parcels will be available to collect as normal on Monday 18th January. The Government recently announced that the voucher scheme will be available from Monday 25th January. Once we have more information, we will communicate as to when these vouchers will be available.

WiFi

The Government has now announced support for some students having difficulty accessing WiFi. If you require support and currently have a mobile phone with any of the following providers: *O2, Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile* or *Sky Mobile* please could you contact us via info@ASTN.uk with the following information:

- The name of the student
- The name of the account holder
- The network of the mobile phone
- The mobile phone number

Careers Advice - information and guidance

Please refer to the Academy website careers section for a range of live events and materials to support students in career exploration and building knowledge in career progression. There are live seminars, useful websites, online careers fairs and opportunities available for virtual work experience. Any questions just e-mail SwarbrickC@astn.uk. This is an ideal time for you to explore careers, find out what it's like to work in different job roles and build experience for your future career.

Testing

Due to the current situation, the mass testing programme will not take place in schools as yet. We anticipate that this will be something we develop when school is fully open.

As always, I will continue to update you as new information emerges. As we informed you last term, we will use email as our primary method for communicating with parents.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Sing
Headteacher