



Central Academy

The best in everyone

Part of United Learning

GBA/LFA

22nd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Key Stage 4 Remote and Live Learning

As we are working together through the latest phase of home schooling and remote learning, I just wanted to write and remind you of some of the key messages regarding our blended learning to ensure that the process is as smooth as possible for everyone in these challenging times.

All students now have access to both live lessons on Teams delivered by teachers and assignment-based learning set by teachers on Teams, but you as our priority year group have had this for longer and get the greatest percentage of teachers time.

Although a 'different' way of working as mature and sensible young adults, you have quickly adapted to this way of working and have managed the whole process fantastically well. However, from time to time there are technical issues and glitches and some difficulty accessing everything. As a reminder, the keys to our virtual classrooms can be obtained following these steps:-

- Click on the link in the yellow banner of the top of the home page you can access your child's daily timetable
- There is a Teams Help Guide on our home page which offers support on how to access the remote timetable, Teams assignments and live lessons.
- There are two Troubleshooting Guides also on the home page which cover issues with Teams and Office 365 on different devices and platforms as well as information on how students complete work and submit documents through Teams.

Also on the website home page you will find the recording of Miss Bacon's virtual meeting with parents held last week, so if you were unable to attend the live meeting please do listen to the recording as it will give you further details of our plans for going forward this academic year.

Can I ask you to remind your child/children that in the live lessons the "chat" function is available for them to both ask and answer questions during the lesson, it is for academic purposes only. Again, as mature students you have used this function appropriately, but please be aware it is monitored very closely. Staff can also unmute the microphone should it be appropriate for the lesson, greatly improving the experience in the lesson. This relies heavily upon the maturity of students to use this function sensibly for academic purposes.

Although our building is only open for a small group of students following the Government guidance on key worker and vulnerable students, please be assured that as a school we are not "closed" and all staff are available to support and help in any way we can. On the website, we have added the direct email addresses for all the Form Tutors – this can be found in the drop-down menus at the top under About Us then Key Contact Staff. Please do email Form Tutors as your first point of contact and if they are unable to answer your query, they will ensure that it is directed to the relevant person for a response.



Principal: Miss C Bacon

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Registered address: United Learning, Worldwide House, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough, PE3 GSB

Central Academy

Victoria Place

Carlisle CA1 1LY

t 01228 822060

Attendance Line 01228 822070

e info@rrca.org.uk

www.rrca.org.uk

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, our Central students have embraced their home learning package and are engaging with everything that we have to offer and this is down to the encouragement and commitment from yourselves at home. We are genuinely grateful for everything that you are doing to help us teach our students and ensure their progress continues to grow.

With every good wish to your family for 2021.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Barratt', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Mr G Barratt
Director of Key Stage 4