



**Central Academy**

The best in everyone

Part of United Learning

CSB/LFA

5<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Update letter week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2021**

The term continues to fly by!

This letter is more of an update on what is happening as we move towards half-term and just beyond. The next student newsletter will be sent out next Friday. I do hope you enjoyed last week's, as it was packed full of ideas, messages and Good News. I hear that some parents particularly enjoyed making the chocolate brownies recipe put forward by our Head Girl, Ella Dalgliesh!

### **Live Teaching and Assignments**

A reminder to all parents that every student has a 'live teaching' timetable, blended with assignments based on Teams. The timetable and all the lessons can be accessed [HERE](#).

The engagement of the vast majority of students in live lessons and assignments has been really high. Thank you for all your support in making sure that they are working hard and accessing all the different learning opportunities that are provided.

I would also like to thank you for all your messages of appreciation on how well you feel the live lessons are going. I do make sure that these are passed on to staff. This makes a real difference to all the teachers who are busy teaching from their homes, whilst trying to manage families and home-schooling. I am very proud of everything we are doing together as a community to make sure our students continue to learn.

### **Helping parents to support their children**

There has been a lot of talk in the media about children's mental health during the Covid period. This week is children's mental health week and there have been a number of activities that we have focused on as part of the live timetables.

These include assemblies (which are recorded and on the live timetable for this week, if you would like to see them), PSHE lesson on mindfulness, as well as tutor time activities in the mornings based on looking after ourselves.

We also **invite parents to a live broadcast on 'supporting your child during lock-down'**. This will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 5 pm. The link for this will be displayed on the website on the day and we have a child mental health specialist who will be presenting as part of this broadcast. If you are unable to attend but would like to, we will make sure this broadcast is recorded and placed on the website afterwards.



**Principal:** Miss C Bacon

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Please also remember that if you need any support or advice beyond the academic, please use the support email [Centralsupports@rrca.org.uk](mailto:Centralsupports@rrca.org.uk) .

### **Communication with the Academy**

A gentle reminder that when staff are working from home, they use an App called Horizon to call you. This often shows up on mobiles as coming from locations where you would not normally expect a call e.g. Kettering, Norwich etc.

I realise that this means that some parents do not then pick up the phone and so often it is a member of staff trying to contact you about your child!

Please do answer if you are able to as staff make these calls because they need to speak to you.

### **Year 9 Options Evening**

As Year 9 students approach the very important time of choosing pathways for their GCSEs, we have invited parents of Year 9 students to attend a live broadcast on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 5 pm.

We will be talking you through the pathways process and providing vital information on our GCSE curriculum. This year, perhaps more than ever, it is really important that parents and their children know what options are available to them to allow students to follow the best possible pathway as they start Key Stage 4.

If you are unable to attend, the talk will be recorded and will be accessible from the Academy website.

### **Sixth Form Taster Day**

Sixth Form Taster Day will take place on Tuesday 23rd February. Year 11 students please check your emails on Monday for the link to sign up for taster day options for Sixth Form!

### **Half-Term**

Following some requests for clarification, schools are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers over half term. I am letting you know this now so that you have time to make alternative arrangements if necessary.

### **Upcoming Events over the next 2 weeks**

3.15 – 6 pm, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Year 11 Parents' Evening

5 pm, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Live Broadcast – 'Supporting your child during lockdown'

5 pm, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February – GCSE Options Evening

**February Half Term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

Tuesday 23rd February – Sixth Form Taster Day

### **Yr 11 and Yr 13 Exams**

We are still waiting for confirmation on what will be happening here. As yet, no further concrete and definitive information is available on this but we are expecting an announcement very soon. You may be aware that the government consultation on this came to an end on 29<sup>th</sup> January and as soon as we know what is happening, we will let you know and plan for this accordingly in school.

We are anticipating that we will run a mock exam series for students in Years 11 and 13 once we return to school. We can be clearer on the specifics of this once we have a definite date for our return. One of the likely outcomes from the consultation will be that teachers can use a range of evidence to determine students' grades. Therefore, we will need to ensure that students have some assessed work; this will largely happen through exams, with other arrangements in place for practical subjects.

Thank you so much to all the parents who have sent kind messages of appreciation to the Academy. This is a trying time for all of us and it makes such a difference to know that our efforts are appreciated. I would like to thank you for your continuing support at this time, and hope very much that you and your families stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Miss Bacon', written in a dark ink.

**Miss Bacon**  
**Principal**