



Mr G Panayiotou – Headteacher
Mr John McNichol – Chair of Governors

Castleford Academy
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Our Ref: GP/NF

4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope that you have had a good Christmas and would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Over the Christmas holiday, the government updated their guidance regarding pupils returning to school. To allow schools to set up lateral flow testing for staff and pupils, all secondary schools will remain closed this week (other than to the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils). **Year 11 and Year 13 pupils** will return on **Monday 11th January**. **Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12** will return on **Monday 18th January**. All pupils who are not in school should access remote learning.

BTEC Exams

Vocational exams will go ahead as normal this week. We will be providing face to face revision sessions on site for pupils who have an exam this week.

Year 12 Health and Social Care (Friday 8th January) - pupils should attend revision sessions in the Post 16 Centre on **Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th January** between **9.30am and 12.00pm**

Year 11 Construction (Thursday 7th January) – pupils should attend a revision session in the old library (now Year 11 lunch space) on **Wednesday 6th January** between **9.00am and 11.00am**.

Remote Learning

All pupils should access remote learning and Screencastify lessons using the links on Show My Homework. Pupils should follow their normal timetable as closely as possible. If your child does not have access to the internet, or does not have a device to complete work, please contact admin@castlefordacademy.com for further support.

Form teachers will be contacting pupils weekly to offer support and guidance with remote learning.

Year 8 Assessments

Year 8 assessments will be postponed and are now planned to take place the week beginning 25th January.

Lateral Flow Testing

We are currently in the process of setting up the systems and processes necessary to carry out mass lateral flow testing. This week, we will contact all parents with details of the process involved in pupils taking part in the tests along with a consent form for parents to complete. Lateral flow tests are not compulsory but are an important element in helping to suppress the spread of coronavirus. All pupils will be allowed to return to the

academy regardless if they are tested. We recognise that the decision to consent (or not) to your child taking part in mass testing is a very personal choice. Please rest assured, we will never test a pupil without parental consent.

Free School Meals

Parents of pupils who are eligible for Free School meals and are not attending the academy for childcare will receive FSM vouchers. If you have not received your voucher by **Friday 8th January**, please contact admin@castlefordacademy.com

Adjustments to the Published Calendar

Following the delayed start to the year, it will be necessary for us to make some changes to the published school calendar. These will be communicated to parents/carers in due course.

We recognise that this is a very challenging time and that there is much speculation in the media surrounding schools. As always, the safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff is our highest priority and we will continue to apply our stringent health and safety protocols and risk management strategy. We wanted to take the opportunity to let you know that we will always keep you up to date with any changes in a timely manner and to thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours faithfully



Mr G Panayiotou
Headteacher

Yours faithfully



Mrs D Cook
Associate Headteacher

