



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

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Our Ref: GP/NF

22nd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. It's been a very busy week both for the weather and for the academy with the launch of our on-line lessons, form times and assemblies. The feedback from staff and pupils has been tremendous. Staff have really enjoyed seeing pupils' faces and getting the opportunity for live feedback and interaction.

Working from home

Thank you to all pupils for the hard work and dedication that they have shown towards their home learning. Their engagement has built energy and excitement into the live learning environment. We recognise that during the pandemic, it is crucial that pupils continue to learn, thrive and develop. To support pupils to keep up to date with their home learning activities, all lessons are planned and published by day and by lesson. Pupils should continue to work through pre-recorded lessons in the order that they appear on their timetable, accessing live lessons, form time and assembly as appropriate (these will appear weekly on their Microsoft Teams calendar). As part of the live lessons, please check that your child's icon on Microsoft Teams to ensure that it is appropriate for school.

Virtual Library

Reading widely is one of the most important learning activities that pupils can do to improve their academic attainment and has a significant impact on all aspects of their future life and success. At the academy, we have an expectation that pupils read at least 2 books per half term (12 per year). We realise that access to books can be difficult during lockdown so we have attached a list of sources of free books that pupils can access on-line. Please encourage your child to read at least two books before the end of this half term and to log those books on Accelerated Reader. Your child's form teacher will be encouraging pupils to read and setting a reading challenge in form time next week.

Calendar Changes

Inset Day - As a result of the lockdown, it has been necessary to review the calendar for this half term. The INSET day that was planned for Friday 29th January will be postponed. We have not yet decided upon a new date but it is likely that we will redeploy the day to prepare for the re-opening of the academy when it is safe to do so. School will be open as normal for any pupils accessing the childcare provision.

Year 7 Parents' Evening - Teachers of Year 7 are currently completing reports for Year 7, these will be posted to parents in the week before half term. The Year 7 Parents' Evening on Thursday 11th February 2021 will go ahead on-line using our virtual Parents' Evening system. More details of how to book appointments will be sent to parents in the coming weeks.

Safeguarding

As pupils spend more time on line, can we take this opportunity to remind you about the importance of safeguarding. If you have any concerns regarding on-line safety, please report this to the safeguarding team. To do this, please

contact admin@castlefordacademy.com and state in your email that this is for the attention of the safeguarding team. We have a safeguarding lead in school every day and will deal with your information as soon as we can.

Free School Meals and Community Support

The Asda cafe in Castleford are offering deals for their takeaway service which allows children to eat for free if adults spend £1. Children do not need to be eligible for free school meals to access this offer.

Free period products are available to collect from reception at Castleford Academy.

We know this is a difficult time for many families, for those who need extra support please see the links provided on the fare share website. <https://fareshare.org.uk/getting-food/food-service-for-individuals/>

For parents on FSM who request M&S vouchers, the store is topping up the value of the vouchers to £20. Please see information below. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/money/13754222/marks-and-spencer-free-school-meal-voucher-boost/>

Thank you

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents who have taken time to email kind words of support to our teachers for their efforts with on-line learning, or completed kind deeds for the staff in school supporting vulnerable pupils and children of key workers. We truly appreciate the time that you take to thank staff for their on-going work and commitment.

Enrichment

The Big Draw - the art department have set an additional challenge for pupils in KS3 and staff to showcase their artwork as part of the Big Draw Competition. It's great to see so many pupils getting involved, please keep the entries coming.

CyberFirst - the computing department are running the CyberFirst competition for girls in Year 8, see SMHW for more information.

Castleford Community Challenge - the PE department will be launching a local challenge next week in conjunction with the Castleford Tigers Foundation. They would like as many people in the community to become involved in running, jogging, cycling or walking the combined distance to all of the Castleford Tigers' away matches. Mr Lloyd will send out further information next week.

With the passing of Storm Christoph and what appears to be a bright and sunny weekend ahead, it would be a great opportunity to peel pupils away from their screen to enjoy some fresh air and daily exercise. Getting out and about for a walk or run is so important for all of our wellbeing. Please take some time this weekend, if you can, to enjoy the sunshine.

Thank you for your continued support. Stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Mr G Panayiotou
Headteacher

Yours faithfully



Mrs D Cook
Associate Headteacher



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