

CLAVERHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Principal: Mr P. Swatton, B.Eng (Hons)

Date: 5th January 2021

Ref: PAS

Dear Parent or Carer,

Update: Partial Closure of Schools - January 2021

I hope that you and your family are safe and well. Following on from the announcements made by the Prime Minister yesterday evening, concerning the national lockdown measures being put in place, you will no doubt be aware that the planned staggered re-opening of schools has now become a closure of schools to all students, with the exception of identified vulnerable students and the children of key workers. Further details of the national lockdown measures can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

As per my previous letter regarding remote learning, we have already instigated our contingency plans to support the learning and progress of our students during this period of school closure. We appreciate the serious concerns that this situation may have on students, parents and carers but would like to assure you that our staff have carefully planned the learning for our students over the coming weeks to try to ensure that they continue to make progress in line with our expectations.

Unfortunately, these latest developments mean that we will have to deliver remote learning to our students for a longer period than originally intended but we are confident that the robust systems which we have in place will support our student's progress and help to underpin their pastoral support. This is obviously a situation that isn't desirable for students, parents or staff, but I am confident that if we all play our part in the process then by working together we can ensure that the young people in our community are supported and their educational outcomes are maintained. Please encourage your son or daughter to fully participate in the provision being made available by our members of staff.

Please see my previous letter for full details regarding remote learning provision:

<https://claverham.e-sussex.sch.uk/documents/lettershome/Update%20-%20Staggered%20Start%20and%20Remote%20Learning.pdf>

Obviously, the changes that have come into effect have meant that we will need to adjust our arrangements for the programme of in-school testing of students and staff for COVID-19. We are currently re-evaluating these plans and will inform parents and carers of the new arrangements for this when the national guidance becomes clearer.

We are currently working on the provision of vouchers for those families of children who are in receipt of Free School Meals. We will update the parents or carers of the families concerned at the end of this week.

The picture regarding the GCSE examinations this summer is unfortunately also currently unclear. Although the Prime Minister stated in his address that they wouldn't take place in their current format, the system of assessment which will replace them has yet to be finalised by the DfE and Ofqual. I am sure that you will be as disappointed as I was that this will bring yet another period of uncertainty to a year group that has already

been so affected by the ongoing crisis. We are confident in the ability of our students and the dedication of our staff, but we want our students to be as prepared as possible for whatever these discussions may bring, so that they can achieve the results they need and deserve. We would therefore encourage all students to ensure that they engage thoroughly with the lessons and other materials provided by the College to make certain that they make the progress required and evidence their levels of attainment. We will, of course, update parents and students with regard to the situation regarding the summer exams as soon as more information becomes available.

Although another period of school closure is certainly undesirable we can only hope that the future holds something brighter on the horizon, in terms of the national roll out of the vaccine and the eventual return to normality that this offers. While the College is closed to the majority of students, due to the current restrictions, we are still here to help in any way possible. Whilst we may not have all the answers at this stage, by working together I am sure that we can find the best solutions for our community. If you have any questions or concerns please contact you son or daughter's pastoral team, in the first instance, using the appropriate email address below:

Caldbec: caldbec_team@claverham.org

Montjoie: montjoie_team@claverham.org

Oakwood: oakwood_team@claverham.org

Santlache: santlache_team@claverham.org

Telleham: telleham_team@claverham.org

Thank you for your continued support, cooperation, patience and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Mr. P Swatton
Principal