

CLAVERHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

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Ref: PAS

Dear Parents and Carers

Update - 22nd January 2021

Thank you for your continued support for the College community at this time. Especially for all of your help and cooperation with regard to our programme of remote learning. We are extremely proud of the way in which our students and staff are working so well together within the bounds of this new learning model. I am sure you would agree that it is essential that our students continue to engage with their studies at this time, so that we can ensure that they continue to make progress towards our expectations. This will ensure that we are in the best place possible to build upon their learning when we all fully return to school.

In terms of a date for a return to the full opening of schools, I am sure that you will have seen in the news that opinions around this vary greatly. Unfortunately, we have had no updates with regard to this but please be assured that we will give you further information as soon as it becomes available to us.

Exam Consultation

Further to my email earlier this week, information regarding the consultations currently taking place into the awarding of grades this summer can be found using the links below:

[GCSE, AS and A-level Consultation Document](#)

[Vocational and Technical Qualifications Consultation](#)

You can respond to the consultations, online, by using the links below:

[GCSE, AS and A-level Online Consultation Response](#)

[Vocational and Technical Qualification Consultation Response](#)

Please note that **the consultations close on Friday 29th January 2021** at 11.45pm.

Given the current uncertainty, it is extremely important that all students, and especially those who were due to take external examinations this year, attend all online lessons, submit work to the best of their ability and continue to revise previously taught content. As far as we are concerned, it is very much “business as usual” in respect to the completion of remote learning. We will work with our students to secure the grades which they deserve; however, all students must work with their teachers to ensure that there is sufficient evidence to support this.

COVID-19 Testing

Following on from my previous correspondence you may have seen in the press that aspects of the in-school testing programme set out by the government have now been paused. This means that the lateral flow testing system will not be used in place of self-isolation should a student or a member of staff be identified as a close contact of a positive case of COVID-19. This certainly appears to be a sensible step given the scientific evidence which has recently been reviewed by Public Health England.

Although there remain some concerns around the reduced accuracy of the test, when compared to the laboratory based PCR test, we have been using them in order to help to identify asymptomatic cases among members of staff and the students who we currently have in school. The identification of any asymptomatic cases will obviously help to prevent some further spread of the virus from any individual positive cases which would not have otherwise been identified. Even with systems such as this in place it is obviously important that we all continue to adhere to the national lockdown restrictions currently in place so that we can reduce transmission, reduce hospital admissions and give the vaccination programme a chance to take effect.

This testing programme in-school is only for people with no symptoms. If students or members of staff develop symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Please also see the additional communication from ESCC attached with this letter.

Free School Meals

The Government has now reinstated their national voucher scheme, Edenred. Free school meal vouchers will be sent to eligible families via Edenred during the current period when the school is closed to the majority of students.

If you have any questions regarding the provision of free school meals please contact us via info@claverham.org, please put Free School Meals in the subject line of the email. Alternatively you can contact us by phoning the College.

Census 2021 Competition

The Office for National Statistics is currently running a competition to promote the 2021 Census which might be of interest to budding geographers, politicians, statisticians or community minded young people.

Students are asked to come up with a community campaign to get people to participate in their local area when the census launches on 21st March.

The competition website can be found using the link below:

<https://censuseducation.org.uk/about-the-competition/>

The link also provides further information and includes a video with an introduction to the competition and tips on how to come up with a winning entry.

Active Sussex

As we enter the next week of the current lockdown it is more important than ever to ensure that we keep active. It's not only important for you physically but doing some exercise does wonders for your mind.

Active Sussex has created some great online sessions for new and interesting activities. There is a new session for each activity every Monday, so if you are getting bored of Joe Wicks or taking your dog for a walk, then give some of these a try. The activities are completely free and fun for the whole family, so try and get everyone involved. See below for more information and a link to each of the sessions.

Active Sussex has teamed up with **REBOOT** and other brilliant Physical Activity providers from around Sussex to provide 6 weeks of sessions, including:

- Basketball
- Skateboarding
- Yoga
- Street Dance
- Kickboxing & MMA
- Boxing, Core and HIT training
- Street Funk
- Adapted sports sessions
- Dance & Fitness

There will be new sessions for each activity launched **every Monday** to try out at a time that suits you. Just follow this link, [Sussex Teenagers Online Activities - Active Sussex](#) then click on the YouTube link to the activity you are interested in.

For more information please follow **@activesussex on Twitter or Active Sussex on Facebook.**

Holocaust Memorial Day

The HMD 2021 ceremony will be streamed live at 7pm on Wednesday 27th January. Parents and carers can sign up here to watch:

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/uk-holocaust-memorial-day-2021-ceremony/>

The **theme** for Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 encourages everyone to reflect on the dark depths humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after genocide. The photographs you enter into the competition should celebrate the people, groups, places and objects which bring us and others light in times of darkness.

After the ceremony households across the UK are requested to light a candle and place it in a window:

- in remembrance of those who were murdered;
- as a stand against prejudice and hatred today.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust are also holding a photography competition for students aged 14-25. The winners receive £200 in high street vouchers. The details of the competition can be found here:

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/young-people/light-up-the-darkness/>

Support for Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

We are aware that some members of our community may be struggling with the current situation; how it is affecting us and our loved ones. Please remember that we are available to help even though the school is not fully open.

If you have any concerns about how your child is coping or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by emailing mhfa@claverham.org

In addition to the information provided previously please see the links below, for the NHS and MIND websites, which are additional sources of reliable information and tips to help you and your family cope at this time.

Support for Families:

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

[Gov.uk MHEW Guidance](#)

Support for Young People:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/coronavirus/>

Support for Adults:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/>

Speakers for Schools

As well as academic development we want to encourage our students to continue with their personal development at this time. One way of engaging with this is to listen to different speakers and develop different opinions and viewpoints through this.

Founded in 2010 by ITV's Political Editor, Robert Peston, Speakers for Schools is a charitable trust whose aim is to end educational inequality by giving all young people access to the same prestigious networks available to the top fee-paying schools in the UK. Through talks from today's influential figures they are helping level the playing field for young people of all backgrounds.

The aspirational speakers, put young people in touch with the very best, to spark their ambitions and the belief in what is possible for the future. Speakers for Schools brings together eminent figures of today, from FTSE 100s and arts leaders to CEOs and tenured professors, creating a dynamic network of thousands of school talks and esteemed work experience placements – all for free.

Obviously during the current restrictions it is not possible for us to invite speakers into school in the same way which we normally would, but Speakers for Schools also have a number of 'vtalks' which students and parents can access as a pre-recorded presentation through the Speakers for Schools website. Please see the link below:

<https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/vtalks-video-library/>

The talks cover a variety of different topics which students and parents alike may find interesting, stimulating and informative.

In-school Provision

Following on from my previous letters, you will be aware that *the school is only currently open to support the children of critical workers and other students identified as vulnerable.*

In line with current COVID-19 guidelines the government has asked parents and carers to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who *absolutely* need to attend. The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear in that schools should be closed to all but identified students. If children can stay safely at home, they should do so in order to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

To read the full Government guidance, please use the following link:

[Children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings](#)

If you wish to discuss our provision for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers please email using the following address, info@claverham.org

Thank you for your ongoing support for the work of the College, for our students and for our members of staff. We do appreciate how challenging it can be at this time, when you are managing your own work and other commitments, alongside assisting young people who are coping with their own emotions, whilst learning online. If you have any questions or concerns please contact your child's pastoral team, in the first instance. Contact details can be found on our website:

<https://claverham.e-sussex.sch.uk/contact-us/>

Yours sincerely

Mr P Swatton
Principal