

January 5th 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It has certainly been an eventful couple of days. We are now in a situation where the focus has changed from mass testing of students and staff in school to remote learning for the majority of students until at least February 12th. I would like to update you with regard to this.

Remote learning:

For those students working at home they access all their work through Synergy. If they log onto Synergy they will find all the lesson resources for every lesson each day. Around 50% of lesson time in each subject will be offered as 'live' lessons on Teams. This may be a full lesson or a series of part lessons and where there is a live element this should be indicated on Synergy but students will need to log into their Office 365 account email or the Teams App for the link to the lesson.

Live lessons are recorded for safeguarding purposes and are available to students who for whatever reason cannot join the actual live session. The lessons can be accessed on the Teams App.

If there are any questions regarding access to remote learning, please direct them to Mr D Morton at dmorton@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk

We will monitor the engagement with remote learning and report back to you as parents and carers if it appears that there is insufficient engagement from your son or daughter.

Mentors have been asked to make contact on a fortnightly basis to check on the welfare of students and this should include one conversation with the students themselves as well as a couple with parents/carers.

For those students in receipt of free school meals there will be a food parcel made available this week and probably next. We will then need to see how best to proceed but provision will be made.

Key worker and vulnerable students

School remains open for the children of critical workers and those deemed vulnerable. These students will be supervised in their year group bubbles and follow the same learning programme as their peers at home. Students who are in receipt of free school meals will be provided with lunch but others need to bring a packed lunch as there will be no catering service in school. We will phone home each day for safeguarding purposes if a student expected in school does not attend.

Covid Testing

We do plan to start the regular testing of staff and those students who are in school using the lateral flow tests which have now been delivered. Hopefully we will send out the information and consent forms tomorrow to the critical worker and vulnerable students' parents and carers and be able to begin the testing on Monday. We have set up the test site in the school hall and staff are being trained.

Year 11

This is a very worrying time for Year 11 because we now know that summer exams will not take place as planned but we do not yet know how they will be assessed and how grades will be awarded. We are expecting a statement tomorrow from the Secretary of State for Education regarding this but it is really important that Year 11 stay focussed and engage with all their learning. Miss Wareing has written to them all today with that message. We will continue to communicate with Year 11 especially as we find out more about the next few months. At the moment the Government are saying that January exams will go ahead and this affects our Health & Social Care students who are due to sit an exam on Monday 11th.

This has all been a rapidly changing situation with a need to respond quickly without always knowing answers to questions that are being raised. I will continue to update you as we go through the next few days and weeks as we all have to get used again to even more restrictions on our lives. That is a particular challenge for young people as the majority of them are asked to stay at home and only go out for limited reasons set out by the Government. We will do our best to support them but please do contact school, especially Year Leaders, if you have a particular concern.

With best wishes

Andrew Waller

Headteacher