



Hanham Matters

Weekly bulletin for Hanham Woods Academy

Friday 22nd January 2021

As we continue to work through these unprecedented times I hope you and your family are both safe and well. I also trust you are continuing to follow the guidance from the Government to stay at home, to protect the NHS and save lives.

Whilst there are some signs nationally of a levelling off of the infection rates, our area has pockets of exceptionally high infection rates. We have had 2 further cases in Year 11 amongst students who were attending onsite provision. Both students are well with either no or very mild symptoms. Several students were identified as close contacts and are now self-isolating. As always, I was very grateful for the parental support we received during the identification of these positive cases.

Our onsite provision for students, who have been identified as vulnerable or whose parents/carers are key workers, continues to grow. We are here for our families who need us due to vulnerability or key worker commitments so do reach out if you require a place for your child, even if this is on a part-time basis.

The vast majority of our students continue to work from home following our online learning offer. We have received so much positive feedback about the online learning during this lockdown and some excellent constructive feedback too. This has enabled us to review the following areas:

- **Live Lessons/Event** – we continue to trial live lessons and assemblies. So far Year 11 have had a variety of subjects trialling live lessons. Participants have provided really positive feedback. Attendance at these live events has been good so far and I have heard lots of positive feedback from staff, students and parents/carers. There are some staff and students who, due to their circumstances at home, cannot deliver or 'attend' live lessons and we are working through these issues. Further trials will continue into next week and I will provide further updates next week.
- **Quizzes/Assessments** – initially we insisted that all lessons had a quiz/test at the end of the lesson to check students' understanding of the topics that had been covered during the lesson. This provided immediate feedback in the form of a quiz score with the expectation that students score a minimum of 90%. We are moving to asking teachers to either have a quiz/test OR to provide the opportunity to submit a piece of work which will then have more detailed feedback. This might be on a class level or specific to the individual student but your child should begin to get detailed feedback in some subjects more regularly in future.
- **Quantity of Work** – gauging the appropriate amount of work to provide is a real challenge. Some students take longer to complete certain tasks or activities. As a broad guideline, we would expect students to work from 8.30am to 4.30pm (including 2 or 3 short breaks spread over the day)

Can I take this opportunity to thank all students and parents/carers for their commitment and resilience in working through online learning. I know every family has a different set of circumstances. It is important to have routine and structure every day to support mental health and well-being and it is really important to engage young people with some learning. It is essential, however, that this does not bring further stress and anxiety to the current situation. We are here to help and if you feel you would like to talk through any concerns or issues you or your family are facing, please do contact Mrs Thurston (jane.thurston@clf.uk), Miss Wiltshire (carly.wiltshire@clf.uk) or Mrs Smith (caitlin.smith@clf.uk)

On Thursday 4th February 2021 we will be hosting a Year 9 Parents' Evening. This will be a virtual event involving 5-minute video calls with your child's subject teacher. We are using the normal parents' evening booking system and the live video appointments will take place through the same system. The system worked very well for the Year 11 Parents' Evening before Christmas and we are confident this event will run just as smoothly. The booking system is now live and we would encourage early sign-up to avoid disappointment. This parents' evening will, of course, provide feedback on the progress of your child but is also an essential element of the options process, which Year 9 students are currently working through.



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There are a range of resources to support you and your child to select appropriate subjects to study at GCSE level and these can be found on our website in the Year 9 blog which is located in the News and Events section. If you have any questions or concerns related to the options process please do contact Mr O'Callaghan (stephen.ocallaghan@clf.uk)

Due to the Year 9 Parents' Evening now happening on 4th February 2021, I have moved my termly Parents Forum to Thursday 28th January. This forum provides an opportunity for parents/carers to hear some updates in person (via Microsoft Teams event currently) and to ask any questions or raise concerns. If you would like to attend this virtual event please contact Mrs Hall (linda.hall@clf.uk)

Other amendments to the published calendar include re-scheduling our Year 10 Parents' Evening. We will be running a two-week assessment window for our Year 10 students from 1st February during which we will be asking them to complete online assessments and their progress and targets for improvement will form the basis of parents' evening. Once we have confirmed a rescheduled date for this, and other parents' evenings, I will of course communicate this to you.

Finally, thank you to those who have generously donated to our food bank. We continue to support disadvantaged families in our community via food parcel delivery and your kind donations have been very well received. Please do continue to bring any donations to reception during normal Academy hours.

Many thanks, take care and stay safe.

Mr Kneller | Academy Principal

WEEK BEGINNING 25 TH JANUARY 2021	
DATE	EVENT
Monday 25 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 10 and Year 11 Live Assemblies: 8.40am
Tuesday 26 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 10 and Year 11 Live Assemblies: 8.40am
Wednesday 27 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 10 and Year 11 Live Assemblies: 8.40amYear 7 Student Council Meeting: 10am
Thursday 28 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 10 and Year 11 Live Assemblies: 8.40amPrincipal's Forum: 5.30pm-6.30pm via Microsoft Teams
Friday 29 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 10 and Year 11 Live Assemblies: 8.40am

WEEK BEGINNING 1 ST FEBRUARY 2021	
DATE	EVENT
Monday 1 st February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 10 and Year 11 Live Assemblies: 8.40am
Tuesday 2 nd February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 10 and Year 11 Live Assemblies: 8.40am
Wednesday 3 rd February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 10 and Year 11 Live Assemblies: 8.40am
Thursday 4 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 10 and Year 11 Live Assemblies: 8.40amYear 9 Online Parents' Evening: 4pm – 7pm
Friday 5 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 10 and Year 11 Live Assemblies: 8.40am