

Parent / Carer Newsletter 2

Welcome to our second Parent/Carer newsletter!

We hope that you are settling into new routines and managing to find a balance to your days.

In school we continue to have had a small group of students working on a range of tasks and activities – you may have seen the ‘thank you’ posters that they created posted on Twitter @ASCHSSheffield and on our website.

Working at home:

We know that lots of our students are accessing the work and activities that teachers are setting each week and we have had contact and feedback both from students and parents/carers this week. As we all settle into a new routine we have asked staff to try to set work to ‘go live’ on the day of the first lesson for that subject in the week. We hope that this means that students will not be overwhelmed on a Monday! We are also moderating the amount and complexity of some of the work that is being sent out so that it can be managed at home. Our TA team are supporting departments with differentiated tasks to support all students’ needs, but please keep in touch if you need further support for your child. Our aim for all of our students is that they complete as much work as they are able to, according to their individual home circumstances, but that they also have time to do activities with their families, have some down time and that they have the opportunity to engage in new enrichment experiences. Home schooling will look different in every household and we appreciate all that you are doing – please do not worry if you feel you are not managing to cover everything, there is no ‘right’ way of doing this!

We are also aware that many of you are sharing computer facilities at home which presents its own challenges. We would like to reiterate that students can use their books or paper to write on at home and that they do not need to print out everything that is sent to them.

This week we have trialled some online teaching through Office 365 with a couple of Y12 classes. Y12 students have all been sent information to show them how to logon to Office 365 and their teachers will be in touch if they are hosting a lesson. Office 365 also gives students online access to the Office suite such as Word, powerpoint etc. We are hoping to roll this out for each year group over the next month or so and we will be in touch with further information.

Keeping in touch:

Keeping in touch with our students is really important and many students have been contacted by email over the last two weeks. Mr Pender also started the ball rolling for short staff film clips which will be posted on our website – we hope you saw his message to the students this week.

Our student newsletter is obviously being read because we received a number of poems for this week’s enrichment competition! Students can participate in the competition and send their entries to the email address listed on the competition email. This week’s winner is a Y7 student in Endeavour House and the excellent poem is at the end of this newsletter, it wins 50 House Points! A new competition will be launched for next week and a reminder that there are also various quizzes and maths puzzles being sent to students each week from a number of staff.

Y13 students have been emailed a survey to complete about their Post 18 plans. If your child is in Y13 or Y14, please can you ask them to complete this by Thursday 9 April.

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News about GCSE / AS / A Level Grades:

Today Ofqual have announced further information about how the GCSE / AS and A level grades will be awarded. There are 2 documents to read; a letter to the students and a booklet of information for parents/carers and students. The documents are also available on our website. As a school, we will work on a process to collate the grades over the next month, however, as instructed by the government, this will be a confidential process and schools are not allowed to share grades with students. We would ask that both students and parents/carers do not contact individual teachers about their grade. We will issue further information as we receive it, but please be assured that we will follow the Government guidelines to ensure a fair process for all students. If you have any other questions, after reading the information, please contact Miss Picknell via email.

Next week, work will not be set for Y11 or Y13 students who are studying GCSEs or A Levels but we will look to provide students with bridging work for their next steps after Easter. It is really important that students keep up with some level of academic work over the next few months, otherwise the step-up to College, Sixth Form or University will be even more challenging than it would have been. BTEC assignments will continue to be completed and submitted as we are awaiting for further clarification on the grading process for vocational subjects.

Coming up:

Next week, there are only four days of 'school' as the Easter holidays begin on Friday 10 April. The students will not be set work over the holiday period, but we will provide a number of optional enrichment activities that you may wish to engage with as a family – we do realise that it will be more of a challenge to fill the days without easy access to activities outside of the home.

Please note that there is a new resource on the website detailing how you can access support if your child is struggling with any aspect of their mental health. If you require any additional advice, please do get in touch. Sending all of our best wishes. Our thoughts and prayers go out to families who are currently affected by illness or bereavement.

Winning Poem

Isolated

Stuck inside with nothing to do
Only two people here, just me and you.
This is how I will now spend my days
Walking around the house in a daze
I stroll into my room and lie down on my bed,
With a whirlwind of thoughts going around in my head.
When will this end? When will it all stop?
I wish I could talk to the guys at the top.
It'd be better if my friends were here next to me,
Video calls just aren't the same you see.
At least I have you, I'm not completely alone,
And I'm grateful for technology and my phone.
There is a small good side to this pandemic,
I can learn some skills that aren't academic.
I've cooked the meals, I've cleaned the pots,
When this is all over, I reckon I'll know lots!
We'll get through this together, me and you
Because now I see that there's lots to do!

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