

07 October 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Return to School

Your children continue to be amazing, as they settle back into school life. We are pleased to see so many of our students engaging with their lessons and showing respect to other students and staff around the school. The response to wearing face masks, when moving around school corridors and in communal areas, has been high. Thank you for your support with this. Attendance improved last week and was above the projected national figures, which was very pleasing and reflected the commitment of our students and parents.

Now that the colder and recently wet weather is approaching, can I ask that your child brings appropriate outdoor wear. Due to the staggering of start times, to avoid crossing of different year groups, we are not able to allow children into the building until their allotted time unfortunately, therefore we ask that your child does not arrive at school too early.

Classrooms are kept well ventilated at the moment, and we monitor the daily temperatures in these rooms. At present, classrooms are generally above 21C. However, I would suggest that students wear a plain black V neck jumper under their blazer if they feel the cold.

Student Learning

Students are working well in class and beginning to gain confidence in learning with increasingly more challenging topics. Staff are reporting that students are responding well to the new timetable and focusing well in class. We are also continuing to set home learning on Firefly, so please encourage your children to complete the work set. If your child would benefit from attending our home learning support clubs after school, then please contact your child's year team. These are available for Year 7, 8, 9 and 10. After school and in some tutor sessions, targeted workshops are available for Year 11.

Teachers have been asked to regularly check student's work and to give specific feedback on their strengths and areas to develop. Teachers will be giving guidance on how a student can improve, which includes purposeful home learning. Following progress checks, additional in class support will be given to address misconceptions.

Remote Learning

We are also finalising our remote learning plan in the event of a partial or full closure situation. To prepare for this, we have recently sent a survey to all students in Year 7 -11 and to parents. This has helped us plan for future remote learning. Whilst the vast majority of parents were satisfied with the school's response to remote learning during lockdown, we are going to put in additional measures for the future.

The plan will include a range of opportunities for children to experience including:

- a) some 'live'/real time teaching

Registered Office: Castle Phoenix Trust, Axholme Road, Wyken, Coventry CV2 5BD | Registered Number 8331385

T: 024 7644 4822 | www.caludoncastle.co.uk | E: enquiries@caludoncastle.co.uk



Headteacher
Mrs M Marr



National Teaching School
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- b) pre-recorded teacher video sessions for key aspects of subject learning and
- c) activities and tasks set on Firefly to be completed, returned to the class teacher and feedback provided.

We will let you know where you can read our Remote Learning Plan, once completed.

If your child is self-isolating due to COVID, then remote learning packs are available which can be collected from reception or are available online through Firefly. If your son/daughter requires help with this work then they can contact their teacher through Firefly.

To prepare your children for remote learning, we will be offering increased training and support with using technology. This will take place within their IT lessons if they are in Year 7,8 and 9 and in tutor time if they are in Year 10 and 11. If you cannot access Firefly then please contact Mr Handy sthandya@caludoncastle.co.uk

Open Day and New Headteacher

On Wednesday 07 October, we launched our virtual Open Day event for prospective parents of Year 6. As a virtual experience, this is also an opportunity for you to visit our website to tour the subject areas and to be introduced to our new Headteacher.

Last week, we appointed our new Headteacher for Caludon Castle, Sarah Kenrick. She will be joining us in January and hopefully you will have an opportunity to meet with her in the new year. In my role as Chief Executive of our Castle Phoenix Trust, I will continue to be based at the school and on hand to support Sarah whilst she is getting to know the school. She is a confident and experienced leader who is ambitious for the school's future.

Communication with you is important, especially during this time, and therefore I will be producing a fortnightly newsletter, which we will send to you on a Friday. Hopefully this will keep you updated with key notices, events and school achievements.

I thought you may like to see the following article on Coventry Live showcasing some of our student successes: <https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/special-features/challenging-broadening-horizons-caludon-castle-19049721>.

Thank you again for all the kind words of support and encouragement that we have received. They are appreciated by staff and we do continue to strive to improve our practice through listening to parents, students and staff.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Marr
Headteacher