

11 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: KS3 Update

I hope you and your family are all safe and well. As this half term comes to an end, we wanted to pass on our appreciation of the role you have taken in trying to ensure your child's learning and wellbeing needs are being met. It is amazing what we have all managed to achieve together in the five weeks since the announcement schools would not be opening as expected after the Christmas holiday. The sudden changes to 'remote' school has meant having to juggle work commitments, family life and home schooling as well as dealing with the pressures of the third national lockdown.

For us at school, we have tried to implement a 'remote' school experience that has allowed a continuation of learning and contact to feel as normal as it could, whilst missing the major essence of school: the face to face contact and relationships. We have all found this extra screen time and demands of remote learning challenging and stressful at times. We hope your child has managed to access the learning and support throughout this strange and difficult period of time.

We understand that, if you are the parent/carer of a Year 7 child, you may be worried about the transition of your child into Year 7, after a disrupted Year 6, and its effect on their start to secondary school. The Year 7 team have worked hard to try and make sure all the children are engaging with their learning, tutor sessions and are being supported wherever possible so that the disruption is minimised.

We are also aware, for those of you that have children in Year 8 and/or 9, you may have had concerns about the continuation of disruption to their secondary school education and, in particular, the potential disruption to their option choices. Again, the staff have worked tirelessly to train on a new online options system to enable options advice and selections to still take place. We have also brought the parents' evenings forward to this half term to ensure you had time to speak with your child's teachers about their subject choices and ensure you have received appropriate advice and guidance. None of this, of course, is as reassuring as when we are in school with the children themselves, but we certainly hope we have minimised the impact of the disruption. Indeed, staff have spoken enthusiastically about their parent meetings and said how happy they were to be able to have direct conversations with you. It is your support in engaging with these new systems and giving of your time, whilst juggling your home and work commitments, that has allowed their remote school experience to continue and we sincerely thank you for this.

There have been some wonderful examples of our students making real progress, trying their best, adapting to the unfamiliar and showing great resilience. This is a result of the combination and collaboration between yourselves, the children and the staff and we know that, together, we are able to overcome these challenges more effectively.

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Headteacher
Ms S Kenrick

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Whilst we will be fully closed during the half term, if you have any concerns over the safety and wellbeing of your child you can email safe@caludoncastle.co.uk. This mailbox will be checked daily. We have also detailed some organisations that may be of support to your family in an attachment to this letter. A website we can recommend is <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/>

If you are looking for activities in Coventry, visit <https://www.coventryrocks.co.uk/things-to-do/>.

Once again, thank you for your continued support when we know that this pandemic has had a very personal effect on many of you and your families. We can only wish everybody the best for the future, let's hope the vaccine program, and various other advances, allow us to return to something like normal and we can have all our students back in school very soon.

Yours faithfully



Miss R Roberts
Deputy Head/Head of KS3

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