

11 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 10 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 how worrying this disruption to your child's GCSEs must be for you. The advice from all the exam boards and Ofqual is that if students fully engage in this period of remote learning it will put them in the best possible position for the future. These qualifications are a two-year journey so, whilst we understand that any period of disruption can have an impact, we will do all we can to minimise this. We are hopeful that the exam boards will make amendments to the curriculum and assessment structure to account for the disruption we have been through this year, as they did this year prior to the exams being cancelled. This will allow your child to have the best chance of seeing their hard work rewarded and obtain the grades they are capable of and deserve in the summer of 2022.

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



Mr S Carter
Deputy Headteacher/Head of KS4

Axholme Road, Wyken, Coventry CV2 5BD

T: 02476 444 822 | **E:** enquiries@caludoncastle.co.uk | **W:** www.caludoncastle.co.uk

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



Headteacher
Ms S Kenrick

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