

11 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 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 unsettling the uncertainty about how grades will be awarded this summer will be for your child. The formal consultation process between the government, Ofqual, and schools closed on Friday 29 January where all parties responded to the various issues the decision to cancel exams have caused. We have been told we can expect to be told the outcome of this on 22 February. As soon as we have this information we will be sharing it with you all, and obviously working as hard as we can to ensure your child can be awarded the grades they deserve in the summer. For now, the advice we have been given is that if students fully engage in the remote learning this will put them in the best possible position for the future. It is important we look to the future, grades may be awarded differently this year, but your child will still be able to be awarded grades which will allow them to move on to the next stage of their lives.

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



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