



Castle Donington College

Principal: Mrs Julie Sheppard

Vice-Principal: Mr Nathan Barratt

Assistant Principal: Mr Ben Wilkinson

JS/LD/C11

31st December 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Pupils' Return to College January 2021

As you will be aware, the Department of Education confirmed that all secondary schools in England will be able to offer staff and pupils Lateral Flow tests in January. This is aimed to help keep as many pupils and teachers in school while fighting the spread of coronavirus. The practical and logistical details of how this will roll out at the College, are starting to emerge.

I wrote at the end of term to inform you that all schools had been told to reduce the number of pupils in College for the first week after the Christmas break. Since then the Government have announced changes to this and so write now to share our updated plans.

Week beginning Monday 4th January 2021 (Week A)

The vast majority of pupils in all years (including Year 11) will **not** be able to attend College.

The College will be open only to children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils. Families of these pupils must have registered in advance and will receive information regarding arrangements separately.

All other pupils will learn remotely from Monday 4th January to Friday 9th January 2021.

Week beginning Monday 11th January 2021 (Week B)

The vast majority of pupils in all years (excluding Year 11) will **not** be able to attend College.

The College will be open only to children in Year 11, those of critical workers and vulnerable pupils. Buses will run as normal and we will be offering hot 'grab and go' lunches from the canteen.

Pupils in Years 7 to 10 will continue to learn remotely from Monday 11th January to Friday 15th January 2021.

Week beginning Monday 18th January 2021 (Week A)

The College will be open to pupils in all years.

Accessing Remote Learning

Although this is not how we would hope to start the Spring term, we have a good Remote Learning facility set up through our SatchelOne App (formally ShowMyHomework) and will ensure that lessons continue remotely throughout this period. We ask that you ensure your child logs on every day and completes the work set.

Continued

Teachers will be working throughout, setting remote learning activities in line with the normal timetable and on hand to support with any issues. We will endeavour to build in some 'live' contact with your child and will communicate individually with those pupils who we identify have not engaged/ logged on.

Your child can complete work in their Remote Learning Work book, issued earlier this term. If you require a new workbook, please contact the College and we will organise for you to collect one.

Lateral Flow Testing

We have been asked by the Department for Education to carry out Lateral Flow tests in College for all staff and pupils. This will be voluntary, but we encourage all members of the College community to engage with the programme to help reduce the spread of coronavirus. We will be sending more details and consent forms out by email over the next week and I ask you check your inbox regularly.

As a staff, we are happy to support this programme of testing in schools. However, at the time of writing, we have very few resources at our disposal and are yet to receive training. It therefore may be necessary to take an additional training day, at very short notice, to ensure we are able to carry out testing safely and competently. Once I have more information from the DfE and a better idea of what is required, I will write again to share with you any change to our plans.

As always, I thank you for your continued support in this rapidly changing situation. I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing our pupils back in College very soon.

Best wishes



Julie Sheppard
Principal