



# Whickham School

## Parent/Carer Bulletin 07/01/21

Dear Parents / Carers

We will again communicate with you weekly via this bulletin to ensure that we keep lines of communication open and also to keep you updated in terms of our plans for the future.

The Government is again asking schools, colleges, nurseries, childminders and other registered childcare settings to remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children where they can. If your child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them at Whickham School.

When pupils are attending school they will be expected to

- Follow the usual school rules regarding behaviour and expectations.
- Wear full school uniform to and from school - this is so that they can easily be identified as an essential school attendee when travelling to and from school.
- Complete the same online work as their peers who are at home. The pupils in school will be supervised by staff, they will not be taught separate lessons.

**Please note the canteen will be closed so your child must bring a packed lunch each day with them to school.**

We have attached a link to a Google Form which enables us to gather information regarding which pupils are likely to attend school next week, this will help us to have a plan in place for Monday. Please respond only if you intend to send your child to school. Please follow this link [here](#) to book a place for your child.

We will be open between 8:30am and 3:30pm. Once on school site pupils will not be permitted to leave before 3.10pm this will ensure they are able to engage with all lessons on that day. All pupils will therefore need to bring their own packed lunch. Provision has been put in place for families who are entitled to free school meals with a weekly food hamper delivery that will be made to the family home this week. There will be supplies to make a packed lunch in each hamper. There will be a further update for families next week.

Please ensure that when pupils are not at home that they are aware of how to protect themselves and they practise social distancing as is encouraged by the Government guidelines.

### **Free School Meals**

Children who are entitled to free school meals will receive a food hamper this week. Each hamper has a week's supply of nutritionally balanced food items and a recipe card to provide guidance on how to make up a mix of hot and cold lunches for your child with the products that have been supplied.

This week the hampers will be delivered to family homes between Wednesday and Thursday. We are currently awaiting further guidance from the Government for future provision and we will update you on this, as soon as practically possible.

### **Remote Learning Expectations**

Remote Learning will be set on google classroom for all pupils. We are expecting all pupils to follow their normal timetable each day and complete work at the time their lesson would normally be. This ensures that teachers are available to support your child.

Where a live lesson is taking place, the link and joining instructions will be shared with pupils via their google classroom. Whilst taking part in live lessons all pupils must adhere to the following protocols.

- **the pupil will be appropriately dressed**
- **the pupil will only access Microsoft Teams events/meetings for educational purposes**
- **the pupil will use appropriate language at all times and remain polite whilst communicating as would be expected in school**

We thank parents and carers very much for their support, particularly in Years 7-9 where we have had some initial teething problems with technology. Therefore all pupils, including those in years 7-9, will have an active Microsoft Teams account from Monday, allowing them to access their live lessons either via the Teams website or the app. This will also give all pupils the opportunity to access face to face meetings should this be the medium of lesson delivery by the class teacher, allowing them to use their cameras and microphones to interact during the lesson. Pupils should use their school computer login and password when logging into Teams.

A short video on how to do this will be sent to all pupils in years 7-9 and also made available by the end of this week under the online learning tab on our school website.

### **Achievement Team**

The achievement team is here to support you with any issues your child may be having accessing their work or with IT.

If you have any issues please email [achievement@whickhamschool.org](mailto:achievement@whickhamschool.org) or contact the following year group representatives:

- Y7 - Miss Envy                      ext 318
- Y8 - Mrs Hammerton              ext 228
- Y9 - Miss Jones                     ext 201
- Y10 - Mr Day                        ext 317
- Y11 - Mrs Hughes                 ext 206
- Y12/13 - Mrs Ross                 ext 252

### **AEN pupils**

All of our AEN pupils have been assigned a Key Worker, who will be in weekly contact with pupils and their parents/carers, to ensure that they are engaging with remote learning and to provide an additional layer of support. You should receive a phone-call from your child's Key Worker by the end of this week to see how things are going. It is also worth

mentioning that teachers will do their utmost to continue to take into account individual pupils' needs when planning, setting / delivering remote learning.

### **Sixth Form**

All students have a Teams login to access live learning. Please email Mrs Ross if your son/daughter is having any issues accessing their home learning.

If you have any concerns regarding your son/ daughter's wellbeing please contact their HOY (Year 12- Mr Turnbull [turnbulli@whickhamschool.org](mailto:turnbulli@whickhamschool.org)/ Year 13- Miss Flint [kflint@whickhamschool.org](mailto:kflint@whickhamschool.org))

### **Pastoral Team**

As always Pastoral Leaders and the wider Pastoral Team are here to support you and your children. Should you have any issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Head of Year.

- Y7 - Miss Herrington [eherrington@whickhamschool.org](mailto:eherrington@whickhamschool.org) ext 224
- Y8 - Mrs Hall [ahall@whickhamschool.org](mailto:ahall@whickhamschool.org) ext 239
- Y9 - Ms Elliott [delliott2@whickhamschool.org](mailto:delliott2@whickhamschool.org) ext 240
- Y10 - Mr Jarvie [sjarvie@whickhamschool.org](mailto:sjarvie@whickhamschool.org) ext 226
- Y11 - Mr Houston [ghouston@whickhamschool.org](mailto:ghouston@whickhamschool.org) ext 225

### **Mental health support**

We appreciate that the current situation we all face can significantly impact upon a young person's mental health and well being. We are here to support families and any person requiring additional support. We have a counsellor in school, a family support worker and pastoral staff who have been trained in supporting children with their mental health. If you feel that you would like some support from school staff please contact

[dcroslan@whickhamschool.org](mailto:dcroslan@whickhamschool.org) and he will ensure that provision is put in place.

You can also access the website [Kooth](#) which will help your child have immediate access to mental health support services.

Should you have any questions about issues raised in this bulletin please do not hesitate to contact the school in the usual way.