



Whickham School

Parent/Carer Bulletin 14/01/21

Dear Parents / Carers

Please can we remind you that if your child or anyone in your household tests positive for Covid-19 we must have a record of this. You can let us know if your child has tested positive by emailing us at covidtestresult@whickhamschool.org

Places for vulnerable children and children of key workers

In line with the government guidelines, School remains closed to most pupils and lessons are taking place online. We will continue to provide a place for children of critical workers and vulnerable children should this be required.

- If your child has been attending a year group bubble we will **automatically allocate them a place each week**. Should you no longer require this place please contact school.
- If your circumstances have changed and you require a key worker or vulnerable place for your child please fill out the following form [here](#).

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.
- **Attend all day from 8:30 - 3:15**
- **Please note the canteen will be closed so we would encourage your child to bring a packed lunch each day. Packed lunches can be ordered but there will be a £2 charge for this.**

Free School Meals Vouchers

We will send a £30 voucher code out to families in the next few days by email. This will allow parents and carers to buy meals for a two week period. **The process will be explained to you in the email**
Important: As the voucher codes will be sent electronically it is important that the school has the most up-to-date information for you and your child. If you have changed your contact details recently, or if you think you may need support with generating your online store voucher, then please ensure that you contact the school office as soon as possible.

Email: info@whickhamschool.org Phone: 0191 4960026, and we will support you.

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 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

If you requested extra data for a mobile device please be aware that to qualify you will need to meet all of the following criteria:

- Not have fixed broadband at home
- Not be able to afford additional data for your devices
- Are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

This is a government directive and we regret that not everyone will qualify for the scheme.

Now that remote learning is well underway, we would appreciate it if you could fill in this survey about home learning so that as a school we can continue to find out what is working well and what needs improving. The survey can be found here:

[Remote Learning - Parent Survey](#)

As a school, it is important that all stakeholders have absolute clarity around what qualities we want to develop in our pupils and that other systems in the school align and reflect these. Moving forward, our aim is to establish and launch these qualities, then embed them in our every day practice. It is important that all stakeholders are given an opportunity to contribute their feelings as to what qualities we would like our pupils to develop and demonstrate, qualities which will serve them well throughout their time at Whickham School and beyond. Your contributions can be made by completing the very short survey below.

<https://forms.gle/KaYxrT6kiiRCkgBG9>

Thank you in advance for your time.

Before the holidays, students were issued with their Interim reports and were asked to complete an online reflection sheet. If you and your child have not yet completed the online reflection sheet, please find the links below that will take you to the Google form to fill in:

- [Year 7](#)
- [Year 8](#)
- [Year 9](#)
- [Year 10](#)
- [Year 11](#)

Homework

Pupils in years 7-9 will not be set homework during school closure but may be set enrichment tasks to further their understanding. Pupils in year 10-13 will continue to receive homework via Classcharts in addition to their remote learning tasks.

FAO: Parents of Year 10 combined science students

In the next few days you will receive in the post 2 exam papers for your child. Please keep these exam papers in a secure place and only give them to your son/daughter when the teacher sets the assessment for them. Once both assessments have been completed please return them to the school, by post, in the pre-paid envelope provided.

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

Key information reminders from previous weeks

Remote Learning Expectations

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

Where a live lesson is taking place to deliver new material or to explore new concepts, the link and joining instructions will be shared with pupils via their google classroom and appear in their Teams calendar. 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**

All pupils now 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 should they wish to do so. Pupils should use their school computer login and password when logging into Teams.

Further information on remote learning and support available can be found [here](#)

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. 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.

If you have any queries about AEN support during lockdown, please contact dcroslan@whickhamschool.org.

Sixth Form

All students have a one to one mentoring session each fortnight with their tutor. So far these have been really effective. Please encourage your son/daughter to attend their allocated session.

Each Monday year 12 and 13 will have an assembly delivered via teams 8.45am. This will include vital information.

If your son/ daughter requires any well-being support please continue to contact Mr Turnbull (Head of year 12) turnbulli@whickhamschool.org or Miss Flint (Head of year 13) 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. We are going to make regular contact with all pupils and you may receive a 'check in' call from a HOY or a wider member of the team.

- Y7 - Miss Herrington eherrington@whickhamschool.org ext 224
- Y8 - Mrs Hall ahall@whickhamschool.org ext 239
- Y9 - Ms Elliott delliott2@whickhamschool.org ext 240
- Y10 - Mr Jarvie sjarvie@whickhamschool.org ext 226
- Y11 - Mr Houston 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 mhsupport@whickhamschool.org and we will ensure that provision is put in place.
- You can also access a range of resources on the school website, including the link to [Kooth](#) which will help your child have immediate access to mental health support services.