



# Whickham School

## Parent/Carer Bulletin 04/02/21

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](mailto:covidtestresult@whickhamschool.org)

### Remote Learning Expectations

Thank you all for your support and understanding as we have continued to adapt our remote learning provision for pupils.

We recognise the importance of continually reviewing our provision to make improvements which support student progress. I therefore attach a copy of our updated [Remote T&L Pupil Guidance](#), which builds upon the good practice that has been developed over the last year. Our practice continues to develop as we learn from our experiences. The document details, in bold, where we have made changes to our procedures. All pupils are expected to follow these procedures.

In addition to this guidance, please can you ensure that pupils have not personalised their profile picture on Teams and that only their initials show when they are online.

### Places for vulnerable children and children of key workers

In line with the government guidelines, School remains closed to most pupils until at least Monday 8 March 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](#). Please read the guidance in the form carefully.
- All pupils attending school must wear the correct **full school uniform**. Any pupil who does not wear the correct full school uniform will be given the correct uniform to wear whilst they are in school.
- **If pupils wish to take part in lunchtime sporting activities they must bring a pair of trainers to school**

### Achievement Team

- Last week we sent out over 100 certificates to students recognising their excellent work during lockdown. Well done to all students who received a certificate. We will be celebrating the excellent work of our students again on Friday 12th February.

### Free School Meals Vouchers

Free school meals vouchers will continue to be supplied during half term. If you have any queries please contact Email: [info@whickhamschool.org](mailto:info@whickhamschool.org) Phone: 0191 4960026 and we will do our best to support you.

## Key information from previous bulletins: Information has not changed

### 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](mailto:dcroslan@whickhamschool.org).

### Sixth Form

In order to support your son/ daughter with their applications to Student Finance England (SFE), Miss Tumelty will deliver a live webinar at 6pm Monday 8th March. This will take you and your son/daughter through the application process and explain how SFE works.

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](mailto:turnbulli@whickhamschool.org) or Miss Flint (Head of year 13) [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. 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](mailto:eherrington@whickhamschool.org) ext 224
- Y8 - Mrs Hall [ahall@whickhamschool.org](mailto:ahall@whickhamschool.org) ext 239
- Y9 - Mrs Bensley [abensely@whickhamschool.org](mailto:abensely@whickhamschool.org) ext 240
- Y10 - Ms Elliott [delliott2@whickhamschool.org](mailto:delliott2@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 [mhsupport@whickhamschool.org](mailto: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 a link to the [Kooth](#) app which will help your child have immediate access to mental health support services.

### **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

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.

This week, teaching staff have moved to a new way of reporting concerns and successes in remote learning. Teachers will be recording “**strong engagement in remote learning**” and “**concern over engagement in home learning**” in ClassCharts and you will be able to see all feedback in your child’s activity feed. We are hoping this will allow you to clearly see how well your child is engaging in their remote learning. While students are learning remotely this replaces our usual Class Charts notifications.

- If your child is struggling to access any of our online platforms, particularly Google Classroom and Teams then please follow the link below to the achievement section on the school website that contains some troubleshooting advice on using these platforms. If you are having any issues getting into ClassCharts then please contact the achievement team at [achievement@whickhamschool.org](mailto:achievement@whickhamschool.org) and we will be happy to help.

<https://www.whickhamschool.org/achievement/on-line-resources/>

- If you have not yet had chance to fill in the parent survey on remote learning then it can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/KaYxrT6kiiRCkgBG9>

### **Free School Meals Vouchers**

- The national Edenred voucher system is now operational and vouchers have been ordered for three weeks worth of lunches per child. We have asked for the e-codes to be sent to parents/carers on Monday 25th January by email and this will mean that you receive one payment of £45 per child, taking you up to half term.
- Edenred is the same national system that was used last year during the lockdown period and many parents/carers will be familiar with the process of redeeming the e-code for a voucher

which can be used in a number of supermarkets. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.edenred.co.uk/reward-recipient/Free-School-Meal-Vouchers/>

- Please also read the FAQs at the bottom of the information page for full details and if you have any queries please contact Email: [info@whickhamschool.org](mailto:info@whickhamschool.org) Phone: 0191 4960026 and we will support you.

### **Year 11 Post 16 Destinations**

Over the next few weeks all year 11s will be contacted via email to ensure we have accurate information about their post 16 destination and to offer support to students who are unsure or need further guidance.

### **Literacy**

In Accelerated Reader lessons at Whickham, students have a vast choice of books of all genres. This allows our students to explore their imagination, develop their vocabulary, and track their progress with reading. In order to support home learning during students' usual library lessons, we'd encourage your child to sign up to your local library's online server to access e books. Your child can then use the "Accelerated Reader Bookfinder" website to see if there's a quiz available. See how to access your local library online in the following [video](#)