



Dear Parents and Carers,

11th January 2021

Last week flew by in a little bit of a blur but so much has been achieved. The announcement on Monday evening felt all too familiar and we were ready for launching our remote learning from the Wednesday. Huge thanks to teaching and support staff for a very big team effort.

We have made a lot of improvements since our last lockdown, and much of this is around engagement and the 'live' element of learning to try to keep students motivated and learning as well as possible. Staff have been so engaged in really trying to set up work that is meeting students needs and is also sustainable in its expectations.

We start our day with tutor time at 9am, all students should be up and logged on to microsoft teams to join this. The rest of the day follows the student timetable with work being set on Go for Schools, this will often have a live element, either from the class teacher or another resource like Oak Academy. We also have daily wellbeing forms that students need to complete and these allow us to check that they are coping and offer any support they need. If you feel your child needs anything at all please contact us. Ideally the first port of call is the tutor, but any member of staff will try to help. We will continue to review our provision and ask for feedback from parents as part of this so that we can work together to make things the best they can be.

We have provided several laptops and tablets to students and have been lucky to get support from the Department for Education with this. We still have some available so please get in touch if you need anything - we also have data SIM cards. Please contact Mrs Beaton on JBeaton@castlemanor.org.uk

We are following up with any students and their parents if they have not logged on and been involved in work as we must make the best use of this time.

We have five groups of key worker/vulnerable students in school and they are following the same curriculum as those working at home. We have also got our Arch provision continuing. We are very aware that we are being very careful with all of the measures needed to keep things as safe as possible, but that risks remain. I am encouraging staff to work from home where they can. I am also aware that families may be struggling with COVID, either being ill or caring for others. Please let us know if things are impacting on you so that we can support your children or if they are unwell give them space away from our nagging to rest. For parents of those in the in school provision please make sure they are not coming to school with any COVID symptoms to keep the rest of us as safe as possible.

Unity Schools Partnership is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07400386. The registered office is at Unity SP Offices, Park Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7YD.

Headteacher: Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe



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We have also managed to set up our lateral flow testing centre last week and it is running very well. It gives an added layer of confidence that we are doing everything we can to reduce asymptomatic transfer of the virus.

As always, I am on VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk if you would like to contact me.

Please do take care and I will continue to be in touch regularly.

Best wishes,

Vanessa Whitcombe
Headteacher



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