



Dear Parents and Carers,

23rd April 2021

I have been so pleased to feel a real sense of positivity in the air this week. Our Year 11 have been undertaking some formal assessments, I've enjoyed seeing after school sports clubs in action, I've been able to see children really enjoying learning in all different areas - Catering has been particularly exciting this week. Our collective sense of purpose seems to be really focused and optimistic.

Thank you for your support with ensuring that students have appropriate uniform, we have tried very hard to be flexible and helpful. We are addressing concerns with children individually, but please can I remind you that hoodies are not part of school clothing, and also that skirts need to be knee length and not made of lycra or other stretchy material.

We are also of course continuing to do everything we can to remain COVID secure and please can I remind you of the need to continue with twice per week lateral flow testing. We have had 4 positive cases identified through this regular testing since Easter - none of them requiring any isolation of any contacts in school and this is a real reminder how helpful that testing is. We recommend testing on a Sunday evening or Monday morning and then on a Wednesday evening or Thursday morning. Please use www.testregister.co.uk to register those results whether positive or negative.

We had an external safeguarding review this week, which we have every year. We were really delighted that it was a very positive review, and particularly that children are reporting that they feel safe in school and know who to report any concerns to if they need any support at all. One of the issues we have seen an increase in since our return from lockdown both in September and March is an increase in issues regarding social media outside school being reported in school. Please can I remind you that there are age expectations on platforms such as instagram and facebook where the age for accounts is 13 and whatapps where users should be 16. I would also recommend that parents should regularly be checking young peoples phones and phone use to ensure they are remaining safe online.

Our year 11 will finish their time in school on 28th May, once their assessments are complete. After this they will be provided with online learning, including pastoral support to help them prepare for their next studies. This is being put together by Unity Schools Partnership and will be in place until 24th June. Miss Cianciola is also working on a plan for Year 11 to experience their 'rights of passage' including yearbooks, leavers hoodies, graduation and a celebration event - as yet to be planned in detail. We will not be able to have our traditional Prom at Chilford Hall due to COVID measures but are clear we want to make sure we have an opportunity for Year 11 to celebrate together.

The government have appointed a new Childrens Commissioner who has launched a 'Big Ask' survey linked here <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/adults> please do find time to fill it in if you can.

As ever please contact me if you would like to on VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk
With best wishes
Vanessa Whitcombe
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe

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.



Castle Manor Academy
Eastern Avenue
Haverhill
Suffolk CB9 9JE

Tel: 01440 705501
Fax: 01440 714050
Email: info@castlemanor.org.uk
Website: www.castlemanor.org.uk