



Dear Parents and Carers,

29th June 2020

Another week has passed, with us being apart as a school community. It feels like it is getting more tough as time goes on in many ways, and I just wanted to start by saying thank you for what you are doing at home to try to keep your children motivated. I am hearing from several parents that it is challenging at times and I wanted to just reassure you that whatever you are doing will be helpful, but to also not over worry or make things cause conflict in your household. Our jobs will be when we are all back together to make sure that we can get children back to learning well and feeling confident to our very best abilities and we are committed to doing this.

We are awaiting further guidance from the Department for Education, which comes to us at school at the same time as it becomes public. Comments from MPs makes it seem very clear that we are expecting to be able to have all children back in school in September and that this will be compulsory for all. We don't know any of the restrictions that may be in place such as social distancing and group sizes, but we will respond to the guidance and make sure that we are ready for a safe return as soon as possible. This is a really exciting prospect, and we look forward to the day when we are all together.

In order to start to plan for September we have put a PD day in on Monday 13th July, where we will gather staff together in person and virtually for those shielding, and together start to make plans for September. In addition Friday 17th July will be the last day of term where we will celebrate the year in our usual style but online with a live assembly. There will be no work set on those days for students and our in school provision will not be running on those days.

in addition we are working this week to plan the beginning of term in September which we expect will be phased. We need to spend some time with the new Year 7 who have missed their transition to Castle Manor, and will take different Yeargroups in each day until we build to the full school. This will help us to re-establish the Castle Manor culture and for all students and staff to be able to settle back in. I will write to you before the end of the week with the details of this return.

Some great news came through last week that support for children who receive free school meals will continue throughout the summer holidays. This is very welcome. I am also aware that some families may be finding things tough with changes to employment through furlough or changes to job situations. If you need any support please let us know, we do have a small financial support package and the ability to make referrals to local organisations.

As ever, please do contact me with anything you need or want to ask about, it has been really helpful hearing from you and has changed some of our approaches as we all find our way through this. I can be contacted on VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk

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