



CAISTOR YARBOROUGH ACADEMY

Our Ref: MMid/KWoo

04 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Academy Update

I hope that you and your family are well, despite the challenging times we continue to face. As we approach the half term holiday, I wanted to keep you updated on what is happening at the Academy.

I would like to personally thank you for the continued arrangements you have made to enable your child, wherever possible, to stay at home safely at this time. The Government's message continues to be that if there is a parent working from home, the child should be kept at home to minimise the risk to the child, family and wider school community. In line with our legal responsibility, the school remains open only to students whose parents are critical workers and vulnerable children. When I have received further information from the Government on when schools will fully reopen I will, of course, let you know. Currently the Government have said this will not be before 8th March and that schools will receive two weeks' notice before they are required to fully re-open.

The Academy will therefore close fully to all students on Friday 12th February for the half term holiday. It will then re-open on Monday 22nd February as it is currently, providing places for vulnerable children and for students whose parents are critical workers.

Families in receipt of Free School Meals will have received vouchers via the Government scheme up until Friday 12th February. You will shortly receive a payment via Wonde (which is the system we used over the Christmas break) for the half term holiday and we will then contact you again after half term.

Since the start of term, staff have been working very hard to ensure that our remote education provision is providing the best education we can whilst your child is learning from home. We are very appreciative of all the work you are doing to keep your child engaged and motivated in their learning. Parents of students who have not been fully engaging in home learning will have received contact from the school.

We know that remote education creates challenges in juggling work, home education and family commitments. Learning how to use new IT systems, such as TEAMS, has facilitated face-to-face learning and strengthened our remote education provision, but we recognise some students and parents may require additional support. I hope that the information sent out by the school in how to access the IT platforms has been helpful. If you or your child are experiencing any problems accessing IT, please e-mail our ICT support at the Academy on support@cyac.org.uk and we will be pleased to help.

In line with Government requirements, our remote education offer can now be found on the school website under the Learning – Remote Education section.

/Continued

EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

Headteacher: Mr M Midgley
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Biglands
Caistor Yarborough Academy,
Grimsby Road, Caistor, Market Rasen,
Lincolnshire, LN7 6QZ

Telephone: 01472 851383
Email: enquiries@cyac.org.uk
Web: www.caistoryarboroughacademy.org.uk

Facebook: [@CaistorYarboroughAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/CaistorYarboroughAcademy)
Twitter: [@CYATweeter](https://twitter.com/CYATweeter)
Instagram [yarboroughcaistor](https://www.instagram.com/yarboroughcaistor)

Lateral Flow Testing for asymptomatic Covid-19 cases is now up and running in the school. I am very grateful for a group of Caistor Yarborough staff who have volunteered to be trained to support the testing going forward. Over the last two weeks, Academy staff have received the Lateral Flow Tests, together with some students who are currently attending the Academy. I am delighted to say that all test results to date have been negative. You may be aware that on 20th January 2021 the Government announced that the daily testing of students who come into close contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 will cease, due to a review of the scientific accuracy of test results. This means that should your child come into close contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 in school, they will be required to self-isolate, as previously, for ten days. The Government has stated however, that the mass testing of students should continue upon the re-opening of schools as planned. Therefore, if you have already given your consent for your child to receive a test, they will receive this when school is fully reopened to all students. I will keep you updated if there are any further Government changes regarding testing.

The options process for Year 9 has now started and all Year 9 students have been asked to complete a survey regarding subjects on offer via Microsoft Forms. More information will follow after the half term break and a Virtual Options Evening will take place on Thursday 25th February.

Year 7 - 11 Progress Reports will be issued after the half term holiday, as per the Academy calendar. These will include information on progress up to the Christmas break. If school 'closure' continues and the majority of students are not attending the Academy, an alternative report will be provided to give parents information about their child's progress and attitude to on-line learning; however a significant amount of contact is already being made at the current time with parents/carers and students in this regard.

As you will be aware, OFQUAL (the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) have recently requested views on the proposals for the awarding of teacher assessment grades for students sitting external exams this summer. This consultation ended on 29th January 2021. When the Academy has received the outcome from the consultation and made plans on how to implement the proposed changes, these will be communicated to parents of Year 11 students. Year 11 students may be aware that they were due to have a second set of mock examinations starting on Monday 22nd January. These will now be postponed until we know the outcome of the Government's consultation.

I understand the significant family pressures placed upon you at this time to manage work, home life and home learning.

The NHS service, Healthy Minds, is offering a variety of free, online workshops for parents and students over the coming months, which you may be interested in attending. These include:

- Improving a Young Person's Wellbeing
- Staying Emotionally Well
- Parents Supporting Children with Anxiety and SEND
- Building Positive Self-Esteem

Further information, including dates and times can be found on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/healthy-minds-lincolnshire-20000004846>

/Continued

EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

The NHS have also released several online recorded workshops for both young people and parents on managing worries and anxious feelings; managing angry feelings; a survival guide to change and supporting children with Anxiety and SEND.

<https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/online-workshops>

Students can also access www.kooth.com where they can seek support with a 1:1 counsellor or through group chats.

I would like to add my thanks to those parents who completed the parent survey when we were visited by OFSTED on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th January. This was a Section 8 monitoring visit that particularly focussed on the actions we are taking to provide education to all pupils during the current circumstances. The visit was very successful and I will share the report with all parents when I receive it.

Finally, I would like to reiterate again my thanks to you in all that you are doing to support your child's education and wellbeing. If you have any questions or need further support, please do not hesitate to get in touch via our e-mail address enquiries@cyac.org.uk.

I will, of course, keep you updated on any further developments as and when they occur.

With best wishes to you and your family.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Mr M J Midgley". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mr M J Midgley
Headteacher