

CITY ACADEMY NORWICH

01 April 2020

Update as of Wednesday 1 April 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

This is my eighth letter to parents on the subject of the Coronavirus Covid-19.

Thank you for your ongoing support and the communications you have sent in through our survey, emails and by more personal contact with the office and staff team. I am particularly grateful that a large number of you completed our home learning survey this week and will share some of the outcomes with you in this newsletter.

With a community the size of ours it is important we are able to clearly set out general broad principles for how we are offering education and support at these difficult times. The first week of home learning has gone well for the vast majority of our students. However we of course recognise that individual circumstances vary, and therefore beneath this we are working hard to give personal responses and support where appropriate. I ask that you please take into account, when contacting the Academy, that practically all of us are now working from home, in many cases with our families, and this as you have experienced presents its own set of challenges.

We have seen some fantastic engagement and high quality work from students, supported by parents and carers, in our first week. It is important to reassure you that where people have struggled and we have tried to be in touch personally or electronically, we are not in any way drawing negative conclusions with regards to individuals. Whilst it remains important that learning continues during this time, everybody is adjusting to home working and what is achievable under their own personal circumstances.

The safety and wellbeing of our students remains our number one priority and we just expect students to do the best they can. We have shared yesterday via our social media platforms the house point totals for last week and those students who are at the top of the leader board. Please continue to reassure students that behaviour point records that might have changed this week will be reset once we are back at school, and we are currently focused on rewarding students for all their positive contributions to learning. In the small number of cases where you might receive information or contact from us that seems incorrect please do not get annoyed, but send us an explanation which we can take into account. In most cases this should be to the relevant subject teacher or your child's form tutor. The Academy office can pass on anything that is wider than this if you leave a voice mail on the main school number or email.

Survey outcomes:

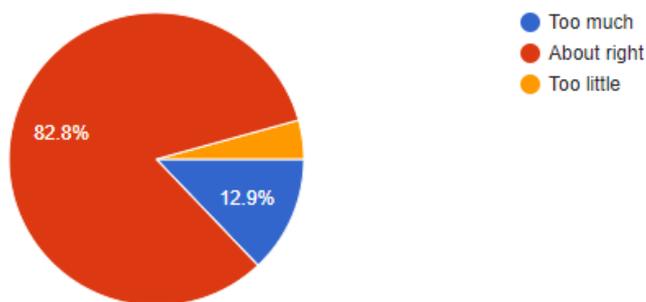
Thank you to all parents who completed the survey. We have had a good representative distribution across our different year groups. We have noted that some parents \ carers would like more details with work set and that some of you had issues in the first few days with Heggarty Maths and Lexia access. We have reiterated this information with staff so they consider it when setting work. We officially break for Easter Holidays today, so there will be no further work set or expected until we start back on the 21st of April by students.

Headline outcomes from the survey are shown below:

On average, how many hours a day is your child spending on home learning tasks set by school?



Overall, how would you rate the amount of work set by teachers for the lesson time ?



Other questions:

- Overall I feel teachers have been supportive of my child's home learning – 93% of parents agree and strongly agree
- My child is coping well with home learning – 78% agree and strongly agree
- As parents, we are coping well with home learning – 80% agree and strong agree

A couple of Parental Quotes:

“I think that the first few days have gone very well in view of this being such a big step for everyone involved. The process that the Academy has managed to implement in such a short space of time has been exceptional”

“It’s a chance for him to show his self-motivation and self-direction. We are very proud of him for his work ethic and grateful to the Academy for setting such a rigorous package of work.”

We have a wonderfully diverse community and therefore cannot get it right for everybody all of the time. However the outcomes above clearly show we appear to be getting it mostly right and it is really good to see so many students keeping to their timetables each day and getting their work done. Establishing the right habits and routines for learning from the start was really important and we will continue the current arrangements after Easter. As time goes on we recognise that student motivation will vary. There will be NO work set over the Easter holiday. Everybody deserves a break and we will review and adjust our current structures to check they remain appropriate post Easter.

Home learning:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued efforts to support the Academy in the delivery of our curriculum through remote learning. Feedback from parents and carers has been overwhelmingly positive, however, we also recognise that some parents and students may be coming up against the same barriers to learning.

We have compiled some of the most common causes of concern below for your reference:

Parent \ Carer Concerns	Our Response / Potential Solutions
1.) Students are struggling to open videos set on google classroom	Students could be trying to log into to google classroom via a personal google account, therefore permissions won't allow them access. Please use your school account. Their iPads do not have enough working memory to download them (this could be due to too many games/ non-educational apps installed).
2.) Too much work is being set for my child to complete	Teachers have been asked to reflect on the amount of work being set, and students' ability to complete the work in a home environment away from specialist teachers. Please submit work completed within the lesson time and do not feel pressured to complete work beyond the allocated lesson time. Remember you can access the work and complete it after the scheduled lesson has finished if your child is wanting to.

<p>3.) Student work is not being recognised as submitted.</p>	<p>This is a common problem and is most likely due to students editing PDF's rather than opening the set work in google docs or the G-Drive. The video link below explains how to do this, which will lead to successful submission of work.</p> <p>http://tiny.cc/2okamz</p> <p>Work also need to be 'turned in' by the student (they must press this button in the google classroom), otherwise it shows as missing to the teacher in charge of the lesson.</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Home contact:

Our pastoral team continues to contact students and families that might need extra support at this time. We know that there will be good and bad days for everybody. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you would like somebody to talk to and we will endeavour to get back to you to listen, offer advice and support.

Student Wellbeing:

We understand home learning can be an unsettling time for many of our students. There are many support services available for students to access at home. Please remind students they can continue to email our Pastoral Team via the main email list / teachers and form tutors. If you feel you need any support please email: safeguarding@cityacademynorwich.org and our safeguarding team will get in contact or you can call 01603 251655 and a member of the safeguarding team will respond within 48 Hours during term time and normal school hours. Critical worker families can also call this number during Easter Holidays if required.

Regular updates:

We are launching a new page on the website at the end of this week, which contains all of the information shared so far in relation to communications and key documents for parents. The new COVID-19 update page can be found here, and will go live on Friday 3rd of April 2020. <https://www.cityacademynorwich.org/news-calendars/covid-19>

Periodically, it is worth refreshing yourself on the 'Home Learning Plan', which can be found on the CAN website in the corona virus section by clicking [here](#).

For parents of year 11, I wrote within my last letter with regard to the cancellation of exams and the future awarding of grades. We are still awaiting final confirmation on what this will look like but in the meantime it is important that students complete any 'Non Examined Assessment \ course work' and return it to the respective staff before the relevant deadline, digitally where this is possible. This allows us to cover all eventualities for awarding grades. We will contact parent's \ carers and students again on this matter once the government and OFQUAL, the exams authority, provide more information. For all letters and general information regarding the ongoing school closures, please visit the CAN website by clicking [here](#).

Our advice to Year 11 is keep working. Priorities should be,

1. Any subjects that you hope to take next year.
2. Any subjects that have ongoing coursework. These may still be used to award grades.
3. All other subjects because all knowledge is powerful and the more you have, the better.

If you have BTEC course work as a part of your subjects we would ask you still to complete this as much as possible and email your teachers for advice and guidance. There is a strong possibility that this will still play a part in your final grade and should therefore be completed as if you were still in school. For all creative subjects, you would need to take guidance on tasks from your teachers, as most of your books are in school and we recognise that resources at home are limited for most.

Ofqual statement: *Students understandably want reassurance, and teachers urgently need to know what to do, and when. We expect to publish detailed information about the process and timetable which will apply this summer next week. This will include the steps we would like teachers to follow and more detailed guidance on how to consider the full range of evidence they will have available when submitting their assessment grades.*

Year 8 and 9 Options:

As you know for year 8 and 9 we had to alter the normal option process this year. To allow all students to still take their options and start back in September, hopefully in a normal way please can I ask you to complete the following survey if you and your child\ren are in year 8.

Year 8 option survey link

<https://forms.gle/fqpa5DSPyot74qaK9>

If you have not yet returned your form and you are in year 9 due to not being able to come into school, please can I request that you complete the following survey.

Year 9 option survey link

<https://forms.gle/7EhTYtXkLZ2wFNXj7>

Year 7 Reports:

We are sad to say that during the current circumstances that we will not be issuing reports due for year 7. As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child\rens progress please contact your child\ren teacher in the first instance.

Free School Meal updates:

For those students who receive Free School Meals, we have issued more vouchers this week on the 30th of March 2020, via email and or text the ability to download a digital vouchers for major supermarket chains of your choice. This voucher for £42.30p is for a total of 23 days. We will issue a further vouchers from the week beginning 25th of May 2020. These will be issued via a new system which the government has launched this week and will be different to the current e-voucher system. The amount will be for £15 per week starting on the 25th of May 2020.

Where can you quickly access updates about the Academy?

- I will continue to write updates as long as it is possible weekly to update you all, but not over the Easter period.
- Our Coronavirus student access page is continually being updated - <https://www.cityacademynorwich.org/student-access/home-learning-support>
- We will share key government messages on our social media pages; Twitter - @CAN_Academy and Instagram cannoracademy; Facebook – City Academy Norwich.

These continue to be very challenging and worrying times for us all. I implore you to follow all the advice given by HM Government, it is only together that we can beat this.

Thank you for your continued support. Stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Collin
Headteacher