

19 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Ref: Weekly Update 19 January

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing again to keep you up to date with the current situation and share with you what we know so far.

Remote Learning

Thank you for your support with helping your child complete their daily remote learning. We are now at around 80% engagement. The live lessons started this week and we hope that your child(ren) found these useful. I know some of you have alerted us to the fact that your child(ren) do not always have working mics and cameras. If this is the case, don't forget that we can provide a laptop loan for the period of school closure. Please email kplant@asap.org.uk if you require one.

As I said last week, it is really important that pupils continue to work daily, to ensure they do not fall behind. I understand that working at home can sometimes be difficult, particularly in busy households. Therefore, from today, we can also offer pupils who would benefit from studying in school, the opportunity to do so. If this is the case, please contact your child's Student Support Officer in the first instance.

Free School Meals

We have now heard that the FSM voucher scheme is starting. From this week, we will be issuing vouchers to all parents with children at the school, who are eligible for these. This will come from the same provider, as it did during the last lockdown – Edenred. Please be aware that sometimes there were delays in these vouchers coming out to parents. This was not due to the school ordering these at a later stage, but the Edenred system becoming overloaded and delays that followed. We are hopeful that this will not happen this time around.

Weekly Assembly

Each week, first thing on a Monday morning, before Period 1 starts, there will be a virtual assembly that is launched on the Google Classroom Year Group stream. I delivered yesterday morning's assembly to students and there will be another one next week. Please remind your child(ren) to watch this.

Year 11 Update

More information has come out now regarding the summer exams and grading for students. Currently, the exam boards are consulting with schools around what a return to school will look like for Year 11 students and the work/exams they will need to complete. At present, they are suggesting that Year 11 will take internal exams at the school, marked by teachers. Therefore, it is important that Year 11 students continue to complete the work set by class teachers.

Safeguarding

Your child's safety and well-being remain our priority throughout this difficult period. Our pastoral team have continued to work behind the scenes contacting families and liaising with external agencies to ensure the highest level of support at this testing time. If you have any concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing and wish to contact us, please use safeguarding@asap.org.uk.

If you're worried about a child or young person and believe they are at risk of harm, even if you're unsure, call 01752 668000 or email gateway@plymouth.gov.uk or outside of normal working hours call Plymouth Out of Hours Service on 01752 346984.

The Gateway service is made up of multi-agency professionals who can give you advice, information and support. You can also contact the [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk) if you want to talk to someone about your concerns and get advice.

Further Updates

I will continue to write to you weekly with updates.

In the meantime, stay safe.

Lee Sargeant

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