

Lincoln Castle Academy

LCA Update to Parents and Carers: Monday 20th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

In these extraordinary times, it becomes important for all of us to hold on to some form of structure in our lives. For this reason, we are contacting you in order to provide some reminders, some clarity and some re-assurance regarding the support we can offer you as parents and carers during this challenging period.

Monday the 20th April marks the beginning of our fifth term. The LCA Virtual School will continue to support students by setting work, providing feedback and ensuring that they are challenged and stimulated by the pursuit of knowledge in its broadest sense.

Here are some reminders:

The Virtual School

- Teachers will set work for the week on Mondays. In order to organise themselves, students could devise a timetable for the week and decide when to do the work set. They could use their weekly timetable at school to get started. It would be a good idea to restrict 'working hours' to between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm. Whatever you decide, please remember that maintaining a sense of balance during these difficult times is essential to wellbeing. Try to complete written tasks in the morning and, where possible, get outside in the afternoons. It is important to maintain a balance of 'mind, body and soul'.
- Work will be set for the week on Show My Homework. Teachers will explain how they wish students to submit work when they set it. Most teachers will provide an email address so that they can send the work in for marking. If they have, then please send it via the student school account. They can access this through the school website, clicking on the 'Contact' tab and then selecting 'E-mail Log in'. Input the 00XXXX number as they would at school and their usual password. If there is no requirement to submit the work electronically, then students should store the work in their Study File. This is more likely to be research tasks or independent work. We will collect this in when we are all back together again.
- If you require technical support, this can be accessed by contacting our IT team. You can email them at: appsupport@lincolncastleacademy.co.uk

New Developments to the Virtual School

- We are pleased to announce the launch of a whole new schedule of educational television programmes. This new initiative is a joint development between the BBC and the DfE. We understand that studying online is not always easy and this new development will provide our students with an alternative way of learning. From Monday 20th April the BBC will be offering six 20-minute programmes on air daily on BBC iPlayer and red button. This learning will cover core subjects including Maths, English and Science, with guidance from experts and teachers from across the country. The curriculum would be for years 7 to 10. Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has highlighted the experience of many families, saying: "As a parent, I know encouraging children to learn at home is no easy task and I am delighted that the BBC has worked with experts and exceptional teachers to create this educational package." The content will be divided into age groups and BBC Bitesize online will publish a new Maths and English lesson for every child every day with more subjects to follow. With that in mind we will be using this curriculum as a cornerstone for our learning during this time. So be ready on Monday 20th April to tune in to the lessons and continue your online learning. Please be assured that the study opportunities provided by the BBC are optional. There is no expectation that all students will have accessed the content on offer. This is simply a way of supplementing the work provided by teachers and will offer a degree of variety to students in the way that they study.
- Although teachers have been in regular contact with the majority of students, there are still some cases where, despite our best efforts to support, there has been little or no contact with a small number of our pupils. If you are a parent or carer of one of these students, please expect a member of the LCA team to contact you over the next couple of weeks. It is important from a welfare point of view for us to establish the reason for the lack of engagement. There may be technical reasons for this which we would be able to quickly rectify.

Reporting

Although we are no longer physically in school, it is still extremely important for you as parents and carers to have an overview of the progress your child has made over the course of the whole of the academic year. With this aim, we intend to continue with our reporting schedule. This means that year 13 reports will be released on the 1st May. The year 7 reports will then be released on the 6th May. These reports can be accessed in the usual way through Go4Schools.

Resources / Student Supplies

We realise that in these testing times, providing resources for students to complete work may be problematic. Ordinarily, resources such as paper, pens and exercise books would be provided for the students at school. If you require assistance with providing your children with resources, please contact school with your requests by emailing: enquiries@lincolncastleacademy.co.uk

Free School Meals Vouchers

If you are in receipt of Free School Meals Vouchers, from the 20th April they will be distributed by Edenred. If you have any queries regarding the vouchers, please contact them through their website. <https://www.edenred.co.uk/reward-recipient/Free-School-Meal-Vouchers/>

Children of Key Workers

School will continue to remain open for the children of key workers in situations where no other options exist. Following the government's announcement that the current situation will continue for a further three weeks, parents and carers who are key workers will receive an email in the next few days in order for us to plan for the next phase of provision.

Contacting School

If you need to contact school, there are various ways to do so. It may lead to a quicker response if you are able to direct your enquiry to the correct contact.

If you have general enquiries, please email: enquiries@lincolncastleacademy.co.uk

You can follow our Facebook page for up to date information and messages or follow our website www.lincolncastleacademy.co.uk

You can also text or email through the Schoolcomms app.

If you need support with any of the online platforms or app support, please email : appsupport@lincolncastleacademy.co.uk

To contact Heads of Year with achievements and news, email: HOY@lincolncastleacademy.co.uk

You can also telephone school on: 01522529203. You can either leave a message or telephone between the hours of 9.00-11.00 am when there should be someone available to answer your call.

Safeguarding

If you need to report a safeguarding concern, there are a number of ways to do this. You will find the website addresses of a number of agencies on the Safeguarding section of the LCA website.

If you require Children's Services, the telephone number is: 01522782111

You can also contact our DSL at: lkb@lincolncastleacademy.co.uk

Further Information

If you require further information regarding your role as a parent or carer during this difficult time, please use the link below to access the appropriate pages of the DfE website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support during this challenging period. We understand that all families will be facing their own unique pressures and urge the need for prioritising the welfare of our children. The most important thing is for us all to stay safe, both mentally and physically, and to achieve a balance of 'mind, body and soul'.

Best wishes,
Chris Davison
Assistant Head