

Lincoln Castle Academy



9th February 2021

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

As we approach the end of another unusual half term, our thoughts begin to turn to Spring and we hope for a return to normality. Although our remote education provision has been successful, it is no substitute for the colour and variety experienced within a typical school day. High quality teaching and learning is best delivered face to face in a classroom; students require interaction, spontaneity and connectedness in order to thrive.

The Prime Minister has confirmed 8th March as the earliest date students will be able to return to school but has not yet signalled whether all students will return or whether some will be prioritised, e.g. exam groups. We await the publication of the 'roadmap out of lockdown', expected in the week commencing 22nd February, after which I will write to you detailing our arrangements.

Although we cannot confirm exact details or dates, I can confirm planning is underway to ensure your child makes a successful transition back into the academy, whenever that may be. Lessons will be carefully planned to ensure students are supported to re-engage with their learning and routines will be re-established. We will respond sensitively to the varied experiences and challenges faced by families during the pandemic. Our curriculum will also reflect the shared life-affirming lessons of the pandemic, including our inter-connectedness as inhabitants of the earth and the importance and value of our own health.

We will reacquaint students with our high expectations and reinforce study habits to maximise progress. Our Pastoral, Welfare and SEND Teams will support students to transition from learning at home to a return to the academy. Some students will benefit from additional intervention lessons, mentoring and supervised study as we work to make up for lost learning time whilst identifying the needs of individuals.

At the earliest opportunity, we will reinstate your child's full broad and enriching curriculum entitlement, including a return to practical lessons, an emphasis on creative disciplines, competitions and enriching experiences beyond the classroom. Physical activity and collaboration will be prioritised.

On Wednesday 10th February we continue our 'Aspire' programme, with a day devoted to your child's mental health and wellbeing. Online lessons will be replaced with the Aspire 'Shield' challenge, with physical, psychological, productivity, social, intellectual and environmental challenges. Staff and parents are encouraged to join in as we emphasise the importance of reducing screen time and restoring balance in our lives.

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School will close to all students, including those accessing our 'Essential School Support' at 3pm on Friday 12th February, re-opening for those eligible on Monday 22nd February. Families entitled to Free School Meals will receive a £15 voucher per child, for next week (half term) on Thursday. Please be aware vouchers may be delayed after half term owing to national demand. As always, we aim to provide support to those experiencing financial hardship through our Food Bank, please get in touch if you require support.

Although students in Year 11 and Year 13 may need to spend some time ensuring they are up to date with work, we recommend all students enjoy a restful, restorative half term break, ready for the term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Laming
Headteacher