

Ref: PJA/AST/GHA

03 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Spring Term 1 – Year 10

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to say I hope that you and your respective families are well. The Year 10 students have responded superbly well with transition into virtual learning at the start of the spring term. In such challenging circumstances and with such short notice, it has been outstanding that the vast majority of Year 10 have accessed online lessons. I truly believe this is a reflection of the huge support that we receive as an academy from you; the parents and carers of Year 10.

As the first half-term of the spring term draws to a close, I wanted to remind and draw your attention to the following items that are upcoming or ongoing with Year 10 at the current time.

Parents Consultation Evening (Thursday 4 March 2021)

A letter with details on how to attend the Year 10 PCE on Thursday 4th March 2021, from 4:30pm to 7:30pm, will be sent out in the coming weeks. Due to the current climate, all meetings will take place virtually via the School Cloud platform. The letter will inform you how to book each five-minute appointment and the link with regards to attending the PCE. This is a great opportunity for you to meet your son/daughter's teachers to discuss their progress throughout the autumn term and the virtual learning during the spring term.

Furthermore, there will be the opportunity to meet me during PCE, as the Head of Year 10. I am conscious that due to the impact of COVID-19 I may not have met or spoken to as many parents and carers I had hoped to over the past 10 months. Therefore, in addition to the subject teacher appointments there will also be a pastoral slot available, that will enable all parents/carers to book an appointment time with me to discuss any issues that are arising regarding your son/daughter or seek my pastoral guidance and advice as required. These meetings will also be 5 minute meetings on the School Cloud platform however if a follow up call is required; we can arrange this within the virtual meeting.

Form Groups & Assembly

Form groups are part of the virtual learning day and commence at 8:30 am on Microsoft Teams. The 'invites' to enable students to join are either found via their academy email, Microsoft Teams calendar or by entering their form group 'Team.' Form tutors are welcoming students by completing a register, as well as following a pastoral programme including a Friday quiz.

On a Thursday, students are 'invited' to attend the Year 10 assembly at 8:30 am. Similar to the form groups, it will share vital information as well as the key themes around our Personal Development (PD) curriculum.

The registers are regularly scrutinised and inform Mrs Southgate and I of who to contact and to offer additional support to via our welfare calls, which are conducted weekly whilst also ensuring that we continue to act in line with our safeguarding protocols.

Personal Development

As mentioned previously, students are completing Personal Development themes during online form group times. The subject and themes covered are a Government requirement and despite the change to virtual learning, as an academy we felt it was of paramount importance to continue to deliver our broad and diverse curriculum as we have done in periods 1-5 via the Microsoft Teams virtual learning

platform. During the autumn term, students were completing Personal Development form time, three mornings a week. During the virtual learning we have reduced this to once a week due to the necessity to complete form time registers and other such matters. Therefore, it is vital all students attend the form group sessions to maintain their own personal development whilst broadening and widening their cultural and academic experiences.

Mr Cooper, Personal Development Lead, has sent fortnightly emails to all parents and carers with a Personal Development newsletter attached. The newsletter has numerous support strategies and further information, advice and guidance, which we know you will find useful during these challenging times.

Contacting the Academy regarding Year 10

Since the start of the lockdown in January 2021, your continued support and engagement with the academy has been incredibly well received and to ensure that you continue to receive the relevant support and response with regards to the matters raised please can I ask that you follow the guidance below to ensure you receive a swift, accurate and supportive response that will address your queries.

For subject specific information please contact either the Faculty or Subject Leader's or the classroom teacher directly via email. All staff emails can be found on the following link and will ensure that you are contacting the correct member of the academy regarding your query or concern:

<https://www.plume.essex.sch.uk/staff-contacts>

Furthermore, Mrs Southgate and I can be contacted via the following email for all pastoral, safeguarding, advice or support that is non-subject related, this email will come directly through to both, Mrs Southgate AHOY 10 and myself as Head of Year 10:

year10support@plume.essex.sch.uk

Again, I would like to reiterate the huge successes we have witnessed during these most challenging times. A vast majority of our Year 10 students have continually accessed and logged on to MS Teams to join their timetabled lessons and engaged with the terrific opportunity they are being provided virtually at the current time. I have also recently emailed all staff requesting they send me the names of students who have engaged positively over the past half term and the responses that I have had from staff has been overwhelming and has left me dumbfounded by the approach, application and commitment to their learning that students have shown across the year group. I am looking forward to celebrating and promoting these emails with our students in their year groups celebration assembly at 8.30 am on Friday 12 February. It will be a great way to show and acknowledge the terrific work and effort that our students have completed over the last 6 weeks.

Long may this continue throughout the virtual learning, but also when we return to the academy and progress into Year 11. I have no doubt this year group can live up to its potential and go on to achieve fantastic KS4 outcomes and develop into a mature, well rounded and astute set of students.

In the meantime, please take care of yourselves and your families, enjoy your half term together and we look forward to welcoming you to the Year 10 Parents Consultation Evening on 4 March 2021.

Yours sincerely



Mr Jackson
Head of Year 10