

12 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

February Half Term Update

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well. I would like to thank you for your continued exceptional support during this period of remote education. We are fortunate to have such a positive and resilient community all working together to ensure that both remote education and in school provision is as effective as it possibly can be. Thank you also for all the positive feedback and emails – this really does mean a lot to us and we are keen to continue to gather views from parents and students in order to improve our provision still further.

Students, parents and staff have worked incredibly hard making virtual lessons function so well over this half term. Our attendance to lessons has been excellent (regularly above 85% across every year group) and we want to, at least, maintain these levels after the half term. We are also keen to evaluate how things are working, capturing positive feedback as well as hearing thoughts for further improvement. Please take a few minutes to complete this [Virtual Learning- Parent Feedback](#) form so we can continue to refine and improve our remote provision after the half term.

How to support your child from home

This is working very effectively as long as the child at home is organised and punctual to their lessons (as they would be in school) and does depend on parental encouragement, support and supervision to enable maximum engagement. Our focus for the next half term is to increase the students' submission of work so if you could ask your child to show you the work they have completed and submitted each day that would really help as ordinarily teachers would be able to provide that face to face positive recognition and feedback which is so motivational. See our trust's [Learning from home at CST](#) guide for more information.

What to do if...

1. Your child is sick: call the school absence line on 020 7473 7548 before 8:00am each day with an explanation of your child's absence. See [Reporting absence if your child is sick](#) for additional information. This still needs to be done as there is a team of staff calling home if students are not attending virtual lessons. If you report your child as sick, this is identified by a code on the register and the calls team know not to call you.
2. Your child has forgotten [how to access lessons from home](#)
3. Your child has forgotten their login information for their school RM Unify account: email contact@cumberlandcst.org asking for their google username and password stating your child's full name and tutor group and we will send your child the information they need.

T: 020 7474 0231 | F: 020 7511 2510

E: contact@cumberlandcst.org

www.cumberlandcst.org

Head of School: Mr Omar Deria

Chief Executive Officer: Mr Simon Elliott

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We are looking forward to the next half term, planning curriculum content and delivery which can work either remotely or in person. It is possible that a return to school could be phased or introduced in the middle of a half term, so our planning will be flexible enough to accommodate this. Our COVID contingency plan has been robust in capturing the broad plans for a number scenarios and this has served us well to date, so we are confident we will be able to respond to changing situations quickly. I will, of course, communicate any definite news as soon as we have it via ParentMail and by the school's website.

Year 8 Parents Evening 24 February 2021

It is vitally important that we give appropriate time to Year 8 students and parents to provide progress updates and assist with options choices in readiness for Year 9 and GCSE study. We are also determined that despite the current lockdown, we do not fall behind with our school calendar of events and curriculum planning.

Further information on this will be shared directly with Year 8 students and parents/ carers, including guidance to the curriculum choices available for next year. In order to facilitate this there will be a **Year 8 Options Briefing for students and parents on 23 February at 5:30pm.**

Finally, to ensure you keep abreast of all the school's news updates, events and activities, please check the school web page regularly at www.cumberlandcst.org where we also have our new promotional video on our homepage and don't forget to follow us on social media
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/CumberlandSchoolE13/>
Twitter - [@cumberlandE13](https://twitter.com/cumberlandE13)

Thank you again for your ongoing support, I wish you and your families a safe and happy half term. Virtual lessons will begin as normal, after the half-term break, at **8:30am on Monday 22 February 2021**. I include below a link to the activities that Newham are organising over the half term for your information.

Half Term Holiday Activities:

Please see below the Holiday **Programme** which provides details of support services as well as information about activities young people and families can do over the holiday period next week.

It will shortly also be available online <https://www.newham.gov.uk/ActivitiesForYoungPeople>

Yours sincerely,



Omar Deria
Head of School