



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

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@MagnaAcademy

11th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support and constructive feedback this past half-term. We are now seeing excellent levels of student engagement with our remote learning package. Teachers and tutors have been delighted with the positive attitudes that students have displayed in the live sessions and their resilience in adapting to remote learning. Students are working incredibly hard in accessing the work set on Google Classrooms and submitting their assignments on time. Please do continue to support them in submitting the best work possible after half-term.

I understand that some families have been enjoying the PE departments workouts together. Whilst there are many other exercise videos available on the internet, the PE team felt videos created by the Magna PE department would be more enjoyable and act as extra motivation for all of our students and perhaps their families too.

It has been a real pleasure to review some of our students submissions to our Children's Mental Health Week themed virtual event. The theme of the event was Express Yourself and students were invited to share their creative ways of expressing themselves. Over 60 students participated, submitting their entries via the Google Classroom. Students produced a wide range of responses which included pieces of artwork, music, writing, dance, drama, photography and film. Every entry received has earned one house point and a compilation of entries will be shared after half-term.

Vulnerable children and the children of Critical Workers

After half-term the academy will continue to be open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. It is important that we work together to protect our community and request once again that parents/carers only send their child into the academy, if they are unable to remain at home safely. Whilst other educational providers are requesting formal proof of employment, we are not. We trust that our families will only request a place where this is a genuine need to keep a child safe. This will help to ensure that the limited places available are filled by students who truly need it. Please find the form to request a critical worker child or vulnerable student place [here](#). Please note this form only includes dates up to Friday 5th March, as we await additional guidance from the government on the potential reopening of the academy.

Engagement and progress

After February half-term we will be reporting home on how your child is currently engaging with their remote learning and the progress they are making within each of their subjects. These reports will be slightly different from what we would normally send home, so in addition to the report, we will also send a document and video explaining the report.

We believe it is essential to communicate where our students are in respect to their learning. Therefore, in addition to these reports, Virtual Parents' Evenings will be held with tutors for Years 7 to 12, and for subject teachers for Year 13. They will discuss the recent report and answer any questions that you may have. Further information will be communicated with you next half-term regarding how to book your Virtual Parents' Evening appointment. At the end of the summer term, students in Years 7 to 10 & 12 will receive their final report for the academic year.

Half-term break

As explained in my last letter the academy will close as usual over February half-term as the Department for Education has informed us that schools are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week. Remote education will cease for the week with no new activities or live sessions. However, it is usual for students to receive homework during a half-term holiday. Key stage 3 students should complete the scheduled Tassomai activities for their year group, whilst continuing to read for pleasure on a daily basis. Key stage 4 and 5 students will have specific tasks directed by their individual subject teachers as necessary.

While I hope very much that your child and all your family remain well, in accordance with the Government guidance it is important that you are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the half-term break.

For the first 6 days after teaching ends (this will be up to and inclusive of Wednesday 17th February), if your child tests positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in the academy, the academy will assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as they may have been infectious whilst in the academy.

In the circumstances as set out above, where it is necessary to inform the academy about your child having tested positive, contact should be made via email to office@magna-aspirations.org which will be checked each day after 12pm. Please ensure that the subject line of the email clearly states 'Covid-19 Positive Test Result'.

The academy will liaise as necessary with the Department for Education helpline and PHE advice service to identify and make contact with anyone else in the academy community who would need to self-isolate. If your child were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in the academy, the academy should not be contacted. In these circumstances you should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. If your child is required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, you will not need to inform the academy about their absence until the first day of the new term.

Update on re-opening

Since I last wrote to you there has been no further information regarding the reopening of the academy. The Prime Minister has said that the government will share guidance around the reopening of schools on the 22nd February. It is likely that they will also release further details

following the consultation over examinations for Years 11 and 13 close to this time too. The senior leadership team and I will continue with our planning for different scenarios and will confirm in writing a more detailed plan once the specific guidance is shared with us.

I would like to wish all of our families a very safe, happy and well-deserved half-term break.

Yours sincerely,



Ms N Ullah
Principal

Key dates

Friday 12th February	Staff INSET Day (Academy site closed/No remote learning)
Monday 15th February	Start of February half term
Friday 19th February	End of February half term
Monday 22nd February	Start of half term, return to Remote Learning (Week 1)
Friday 26th February	Year 12 AP1 Reports to Parents & Students
Wednesday 10th March	Years 7 to 10 Reports to go home
Thursday 11th March	Virtual Parents' Evening - Years 7 to 10 & 12 (4pm to 7pm)
Thursday 18th March	Virtual Parents' Evening - Years 7 to 10 & 12 (4pm to 7pm)
Wednesday 24th March	Years 11 & 13 Reports home
Thursday 25th March	Virtual Parents' Evening - Years 11 & 13 (4pm to 7pm)
Wednesday 31st March	Virtual Parents' Evening - Years 11 & 13 (4pm to 7pm)
Friday 2nd April	Start of Easter break
Monday 19th April	Staff INSET Day



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