

St Crispin's School

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St. Crispin's
Excellence for all



5th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re. Years 7, 8 and 9

As promised, I now write to explain the arrangements for the coming half term for your sons and daughters. Whilst it would not be wise to speculate as to the long term future, I think it would be safe to say that with social distancing we need to continue to be innovative in our delivery of education.

Enhancing Remote Learning

Consequently as a school we will now complete the transition to the full use of Microsoft Teams as our main method of setting and delivering remote learning. Microsoft Teams allows a greater level of teacher/student and peer to peer interaction and affords opportunities to conduct assessment including in-time delivery or pre-recorded lessons and live interaction. As professionals we remain on a steep learning curve but colleagues are rising to the challenge and relishing the creative opportunity to devise lessons in this new way. As a result, for students in Key Stage 3 over the next half term we will be offering a number of "Spotlight" lessons.

Spotlight lessons are the term we use to highlight that the lesson will offer "live" teacher interaction and is intended to showcase or consolidate new learning. Spotlight lessons will routinely be delivered at 10am and will be a rotation of all subjects. The timetable of Spotlight lessons can be found in the attached Spotlight Lesson advice and guidance booklet for each specific year group Year 7 [click here](#), Year 8 [click here](#) and Year 9 [click here](#). Spotlight lessons will allow our different departments to test a variety of approaches to better understand how students learn best in their own specialist areas. I hope this will mean that from September, if it remains the case we have to work in this very different way, that we embark with a strong understanding of what methodologies are effective. Given we are all novices in this pedagogical approach I hope you will forgive any error in these initial attempts: we will learn and no doubt quickly after all as Teachers we are all bound by the love of learning new things!

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Academic and Pastoral Tutorials

Alongside enhancing our remote learning delivery over this half term (starting 15th June for Year 9 and 22nd June for Years 7 & 8) we will also offer via Microsoft Teams to every student in KS3 a virtual 1:1 Academic and Pastoral Care Tutorial. The Tutorials have been devised to offer feedback to students from their subject teachers on their engagement with virtual learning and are shaped to help your son or daughter to reflect on what is working well learning at home and equally how we might support removing any barriers in home learning. Another priority of this tutorial time is to provide an opportunity to reflect on these present times and offer support and encouragement. We will formally feedback the Tutorial to parents in the form of a simple RAG-rated report which will provide you with an overview of home learning engagement.

Year 9 Options

The first Spotlight lesson for Year 9 will be led by the Head of Year who will guide students in their transition between Key Stage 3 (academic Years 7 - 9) and into Key Stage 4 (GCSE). Families will also receive a letter confirming all GCSE options.

Whilst writing about Year 9, it seems the right moment to share the good news that Mrs Kiran Sharma has been internally promoted to Assistant Headteacher at St. Crispin's and will begin her new role in September. My congratulations to Mrs Sharma! During this Spotlight event with Year 9 we will introduce Mrs Katy Tavaga tavagak@crispins.co.uk as Head of Year designate.

End of Year Tests

All students in Key Stage 3 will sit end of year tests (Year 9 in week starting 29th June and Year 7 & 8 week starting 6th July). The timetable and physical arrangements for sitting the tests at home will be sent in due course. Although testing remotely has very obvious limitations, we are confident of the innate worth of this period of formal assessment and have devised a protocol that might achieve a positive experience for all.

What makes St. Crispin's, St. Crispin's!

Learning and pastoral care are central to our work of course but we have also been exploring how we might bring together our school community. I am very ambitious to develop ways of keeping and celebrating our ethos and culture "Excellence for All." As a result during the final week of this term we will offer some important events.

Firstly, we intend to hold a **Virtual Sports Day!** The event although necessarily held with us all apart will offer the opportunity for your son or daughter to set a personal best or even develop a sporting skill as yet untapped.

Additionally, we will hold **Virtual Sixth Form Hustings** to select our next Head Boy and Girl Team.

Finally, I am delighted to announce that we will hold a **Virtual Presentation Evening** for students and their parents. The evening will celebrate and seek to reward those students who are working so hard at home and whose efforts we want to recognise. Our Key Note speaker will be Musharaf

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(Mushy) Asgar, from Educating Yorkshire. Musharaf's experience reflects how education and our time at school truly makes a difference <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XogvI6TP72M>

Even now we are setting the stage (literally) for a **Virtual Autumn Gala** in the new academic year...

Summer Learning Plans

During the last week of term your son and daughter will also receive a Spotlight lesson introduction for the work set for summer home learning. It may be the case that the Government offers additional summer work but as of writing this letter the DfE have given no confirmation that this will be the case. Therefore we have devised a purposeful and intentionally different type of remote learning for over the summer. This work is based on enhancing literacy skills and widening students' cultural knowledge based on the theme of **Discovery**.

Invitation to a virtual meeting with the Headteacher

Although I confess to a little nerve wracking, I do warmly invite you along with all other parents to a presentation of all our St. Crispin's plans for the coming half term. I hope to share with parents our ambitions regarding enriching the remote learning experience that I have set out in this letter as well as our Covid Secure onsite learning arrangements. This "Live Microsoft Teams event" will take place on Thursday 11th June at 9.30am – all you need to do is to click this link <http://tiny.cc/mnecqz>

If you are unfamiliar with Microsoft Teams attached to this letter is a help note – [please click here](#).

There will also be an opportunity during this time for parents to pose questions. Recognising that not all parents will be able to join at this time the event will be recorded and made available thereafter.

Finally

It is worth emphasising that all the plans set out in this letter are subject to adaptation. As I have previously mentioned DfE instructions to schools change rapidly and are impossible to predict.

Forgive the length of this letter but I hope it gives a sense of our drive and ambition to provide our very best for your sons and daughters. I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible next Thursday - albeit in 2D, it will be lovely to see you!

Yours faithfully,



Ms Rhodes

Headteacher

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