

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister on Monday evening that the country has returned to a national lockdown, regrettably, Poltair School site is now closed to all students apart from those pre-booked for Critical Key Worker and Vulnerable Students provision which begins on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. All learning for students will now be set remotely until at least half term, starting for all year groups today.

### **Remote Learning**

All school work will be set via ClassCharts by your child's class teacher. This will include instructions of what students are expected to complete. A full guide to 'Learning from Home' is available on the Student SharePoint which can be logged into via Office 365 with a student's usual log in details; it is also available on the school website.

Students will be expected to follow their usual timetable, starting from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January which is Week B1. This will mean that students have two subjects per day and will be set between 2 - 2 ½ hours of learning per subject resulting in a minimum of 4 hours learning per day. Teachers will be tracking engagement with learning and will contact parents if there are concerns about the work being completed. We will also consider whether it would be to a student's advantage to complete their learning on site if they are not accessing learning at home to ensure that students do not fall further behind than is necessary.

We welcome parents and carers supporting students with their learning, checking that they understand what is expected of them and what the students produce each day.

Increasingly, staff will be setting work via Microsoft Teams, an excellent web-based programme that supports the setting of assignments and tutorial videos. Microsoft Teams can be accessed via Office 365 on a mobile phone, tablet, laptop or PC. If your child does not have access to any of the devices above, please contact your child's Head of Year as soon as possible:

- Year 7: Mrs Pengelly [jpengelly@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:jpengelly@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk)
- Years 8 and 9: Miss Dingwall [cdingwall@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:cdingwall@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk)
- Years 10 and 11: Miss Waters [vwaters@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:vwaters@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk)

Over the next few days, an exercise book and any hard copy resources that are needed for learning will be posted home to students. The exercise book can be used for all subjects. If your child requires any additional learning materials, please contact your child's form tutor for support.

### **Tutor Support**

Each week, students will be invited to an online tutor meeting with their form tutor via Microsoft Teams. This will provide a good opportunity to check in with how students are managing their workload and to address any issues that they might have. Your child's form tutor should be the first point of contact for any support.

### **Critical Workers and Vulnerable Students**

If your child falls in to the category of vulnerable (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021>) or has parents who are critical workers (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>), then they may attend the school. A link to a booking form will be sent out every Monday and will need to be completed to secure a place. The students will be supervised in this provision to access school work.

### **Year 11 Exams**

It was announced on Monday that summer exams will be cancelled for Year 11. We are awaiting further guidance from the Department for Education regarding how students will be assessed. We appreciate that this is likely to be causing some anxiety for students in Year 11 and we hope to be able to update you as soon as possible with what will happen next. The most important action that students in Year 11 can take is to continue to complete all learning activities set for them to the best of their ability. This will support teachers in being able to gauge the progress being made by students since their November Pre-Public Exams (PPEs), prepare students for any potential future assessments and support transition to post-16 study.

### **Free School Meals**

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, we will be in contact with regards to how vouchers will be issued in place of Free School Meals.

### **Weekly Bulletin**

To keep our parents and carers informed, we will send out a weekly bulletin to update you on any key developments and to share student successes in the work that they complete. This will be sent every Friday.

We appreciate that the sudden change to a national lockdown will cause anxiety for families and we are here to support you in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require any support or guidance and we will do our best to help or to signpost you to the most relevant agency for support.

Please continue to keep safe and adhere to the requirements of the national lockdown - stay at home, keep safe, protect lives.

Yours sincerely



**Mark Everett**  
**Head of School**