



Dear Parents and Carers,

19th January 2021

It is strange to think that we are only on the third week of term and on the 10th day of online learning! It certainly feels much longer, but we are learning so much. Thank you for the responses to my survey that I sent last week. We will do this approximately fortnightly as it really does help. Just over 97% of people said they were happy with our online provision, and there were many really insightful comments that are helping us shape our next phase. If you have any further comments at any time particularly about anything that isn't working please do let me know.

Our next phase will see more structured online live sessions to deliver learning and offer support and opportunity to ask questions. We are aiming to create a timetable of when these will be for KS3 classes by the end of the week. For Key Stage 4 the timetables will be as invited by staff, but there will be whole year timetables that can also be referred to.

I wanted to just update for families who receive free school meals - we have been providing vouchers by email and from this week switch to the Edenred voucher system provided by the Government. If you have any queries at all please contact Mrs Rudd on KRudd@castlemanor.org.uk We also have access to other financial support and can help and refer to other agencies, in the strictest of confidence. Please email Mrs Horne on VHorne@castlemanor.org.uk if you would feel you need this support.

For parents of Year 11 I wanted to update you that we have now had a consultation from the Government on proposals about how GCSE grades will be generated. As yet this is a consultation and so not the exact plan.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021> We shall be responding to this consultation and of course will make any provision that is needed as we move forward. Our message to Year 11 is to keep working hard and doing as teachers recommend and we will keep working together.

It has been really great to see vaccinations happening in Haverhill now, and gives us just a little hope for a return to some kind of new normal in the coming months.

As always please do keep in touch.

Vanessa Whitcombe
Headteacher

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