



Dear Parents and Carers,

22nd November 2021

Last week one of the highlights of my week was seeing some curriculum workshops in progress run by expert print makers teaching our students in Art. The professionalism of our students learning this new technique was absolutely wonderful. We showcase lots of our work at school on our twitter account @castlemanor and if twitter is something you engage in, I recommend giving us a follow.

We have had additional, clearer guidance from Suffolk Local Authority about a 'level' approach to COVID cases. We are very pleased that in school at the moment we have had a significant reduction in confirmed COVID cases following some high numbers in the lead up to and over half term. I have attached this guidance and our updated risk assessment.

We are currently at the lowest level, level 1. We remain taking all measures we have been - masks in congested areas, sanitising, testing if symptomatic, wiping down at the end of lessons, twice weekly LFT, ventilation and CO2 monitors.

The key change is that no longer are we to recommend that siblings stay at home and isolate until a day 3 negative PCR, we encourage daily lateral flow and attendance at school for siblings. Daily lateral flow testing is recommended for anyone who is a close contact of a positive case, with a day 5 PCR test. This therefore counts for us as adults too. Additional lateral flows can be obtained from school via tutors but also online <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

We are also permitted to have events with visitors as long as we are risk assessing and putting in measures such as masks and LFT test. This is only while we remain in Level 1, so it is a fluid situation which we will monitor carefully and make any changes as they are necessary.

One thing that I have noticed is that not all students are logging twice weekly LFT tests on testregister and many are overdue. I think this is a case of not logging rather than not testing but please can I encourage you to log tests on www.testregister.co.uk and let us know by email Mrs Byrne on RByrne@castlemanor.org.uk if you have any issues. The only exception to this is if a student has tested positive, they do not need to do LFT tests for 90 days after their positive test.

Headteacher: Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe

Unity Schools Partnership is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07400386. The registered office is at Unity SP Offices, Park Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7YD.



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Another issue we have picked up is that those students who have tested positive now have to wait 12 weeks after the positive tests to be vaccinated <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-59298833> and those who had appointments booked through the NHS booking system have been turned away.

This week our Year 11 students start their mock exams and we wish them the very best and encourage them to do their very best.

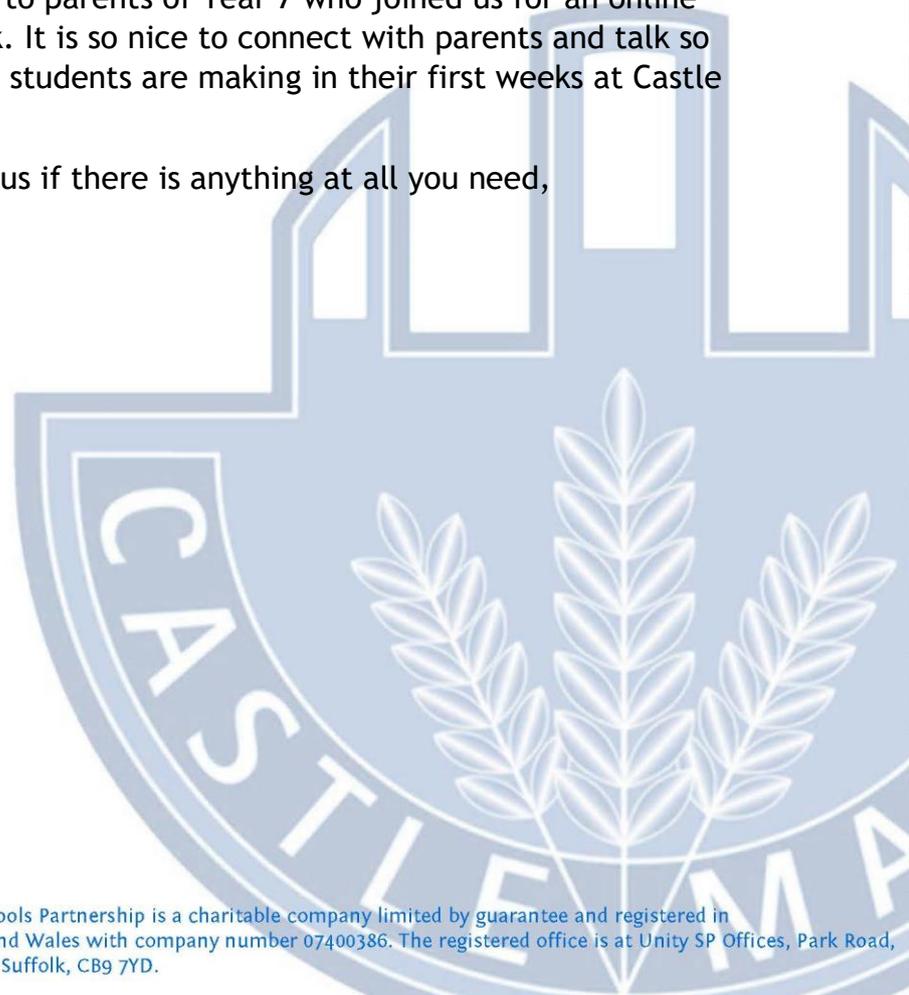
I need to share with you the sad news that Mrs Luntz who joined us as a Geography Teacher earlier this year is not going to be returning to school after a period of illness and a change in personal circumstances. We send her our collective thanks and best wishes. I have shared this in my weekly online video with students too. We have Mrs Mason working with us teaching the classes until we appoint a permanent replacement and we will keep you updated on this.

My closing notes are a thank you to parents of Year 7 who joined us for an online Year 7 parents evening last week. It is so nice to connect with parents and talk so positively about the progress our students are making in their first weeks at Castle Manor Academy.

As ever, please be in touch with us if there is anything at all you need,

Best regards,

Vanessa Whitcombe
Headteacher



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