

Tuesday, January 19th 2021

KLA Bulletin - KLA School Closure Update

Dear pupils, parents and carers

We have been delighted with the high levels of engagement that we have been seeing from pupils in their live Teams lessons, and we continue to see well over 90% of pupils attending, working hard and continuing their progress through the curriculum. Thank you from all of us to both pupils and parents for your great support. The data team have continued to be available to support with any login or technical issues, which I am pleased to report have now slowed to a trickle (3 yesterday!) which shows that pupils are now well on top of the technology that they are being asked to use.

I have been asked to share the following pieces of information:

From Mrs May – Online cookery sessions

Every Friday during lockdown I will be demonstrating a tasty Friday night meal that you can cook for your whole family! On the menu this week it's delicious homemade burgers and chips.

If you would like to be part of the group, please email me this week at jenny.may@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk and I will send you an invitation and list of ingredients. Open to ALL students we will go live at 12 noon on Friday and I look forward to seeing lots of budding young chefs then!

From Mr Towler – Year 10 History

In order to assist with the logistics of the year 10 history course we are allowing the textbook that we are using for the World War One GCSE History unit to be collected from school so that pupils in Year 10 have a copy at home to use to support their studies. If you wish your child to collect it then they are allowed to come into KLA to pick this up this week, at any time up until 4 p.m. Simply come to reception where they will be asked to sign out a copy – parents can also collect and sign on behalf of their children. We will also provide an exercise book for them to use if they wish to keep their notes for this course together.

If you would like any further information or have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact Mr Towler via email on David.Towler@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk

Year 11 – Awarding GCSE Grades

Year 11 pupils and parents will be aware I am sure that the government began a consultation on the process this year for awarding GCSE grades. The gist of the proposals are as follows:

- Grades will be awarded by Teacher Assessment of work completed

- To help provide evidence of standards being attained by each pupil, it is likely that exam boards will be asked to provide tests in each GCSE subject. These tests would be administered in a normal school environment (under test conditions), marked by teachers and then moderated by the exam boards.
- These tests would take place most likely in May.
- Teacher assessments will need to have evidence of pupils' work at that grade to be valid
- Exam results would be published to pupils before the end of the summer term
- Teacher Assessed grades will not be changed by any computer algorithm – the quality assurance of awarded grades will take place before they are published by reviewing the quality of work submitted by the school.
- Pupils would have the right to appeal their grades, albeit under limited grounds.

I will be writing a more detailed letter to Year 11 pupils and parents this week, including some information about current assessed grades and predicted final grades in each subject. For the time being, the key message for Year 11s is simple – keep working and keep producing work of the very highest-quality that you are capable of, as this evidence is going to be valuable for final assessment.

Year 11 parents' consultation day – Wednesday, February 3rd.

Warning – impact on other pupils – there will be no live Teams lessons on that date!

I know that this will be an unsettling time for all pupils in Year 11, and we will do all we can to help and guide pupils and parents through it. Once we provide some information in the coming days about current assessments and predicted final grades, we want to create a day for parents and Year 11 students to be able to talk to subject teachers about those grades and what pupils need to focus on doing next. We will be using some new software that we have bought to run this remotely, with appointments to be made directly with the class teacher. I hope to include more information about how we will do this in that letter I write to Year 11 pupils and parents later this week.

This will have one impact on other pupils – on that date (3rd February) teachers will be unable to deliver live lessons as they will obviously be having conversations with Year 11 students and parents. On that day therefore, all work for lessons will be set on Go4Schools or Teams Assignments for pupils to complete, and normal service will be resumed the following day. I know that parents of pupils in other year groups will understand the need to support Year 11 students in this way, and thank you for that understanding.

We will be providing current assessment information for pupils in Year 7 - Year 10 before we break up for half-term in February, and I am holding off on scheduling parent consultation sessions for those year groups until we are hopefully back in school after Easter.

Laptops, Free School Meals, Mass testing

The position with laptops remains unchanged from when I last wrote – we have now distributed all devices that we were given by the government and we have none left to provide. We continue to wait for information about any further allocation of these, and we have a waiting list ready to distribute these to should we receive any more. Unfortunately, we have no more laptops in school that we could lend, as these are needed in school for those pupils attending on-site each day. I appreciate that having no computer to use makes live lessons online difficult, and would repeat that pupils in this situation have the right to attend school each day to make sure that they do not fall behind in their education.

We have received and sent FSM vouchers to those families entitled over the past two weeks from the school's own funds, and we believe that we will be able to move onto the DfE / Edenred voucher system now for the remainder of the school closure. Provision of Free School Meals over the February Half-Term holiday has not been enabled by the DfE, but Norfolk County Council may be providing access to vouchers via the COVID Winter Grant Scheme as they did for us during the Christmas holidays. More information to follow on this.

Finally, we are ready to begin testing of staff who are attending onsite from this week. We have volunteer staff, completed training and set up a test site in the past week. We are not yet ready to begin lateral flow testing of pupils, although we are working towards being able to provide this for pupils prior to their return to school, whenever that should be. When we are closer to that point we will be contacting parents with further information and consent forms.

As always, I hope this latest update provide the information that you feel you need to be confident about the current situation. If you have any queries that I have not addressed here, please do email me on alan.fletcher@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk and I will do my best to answer them.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Fletcher', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alan Fletcher