



Striving for Excellence

Cirencester Kingshill School

Head: Christine S. Oates

8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy new year to you all. This letter comes to you at the end of a very different first week of the spring term than I think any of us were hoping for, however I have to say how very proud I am of all of the pupils and staff of the school for their hard work, their adaptability, and their approach to our new way of learning and teaching. I also want to say an enormous thank you to you as parents and carers, for your support in ensuring that your children attend their lessons and engage with their teachers. I do believe that this week has shown what strength we have when we pull together as a whole school community.

Home learning

We have received some very positive responses to our MS Teams-based home learning. This has been very much appreciated by all staff.

IT

If your child is finding it hard to engage with their home learning because they have laptop or Wi-Fi issues, please contact Mr Pritchard, Deputy Headteacher, (spritchard@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk) to arrange the loan of a school laptop, or assistance with obtaining more data for mobile phones/devices.

Supporting each other

We are very mindful that this way of teaching and learning is new to our whole school community, and that the national picture surrounding the circumstances that we are living in is changing regularly. Bearing that in mind, we do expect occasional blips along the way, however we will be doing all we can to ensure that everything runs as smoothly as possible. I urge you all as parents and carers to keep in touch with school via your child's Tutor, Head of Year or myself, should you have any concerns at all about your child's engagement with home learning.

Additional resources

Both the Oak National Academy and the BBC are offering additional resources to support home learning across the country. You can find out more here <https://classroom.thenational.academy/> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-55552962>

Submission of work for checking during lockdown

Alongside our MS Teams lessons, we will be requiring pupils to submit work for marking and checking at various points over the coming weeks. Teachers are currently looking at the best way for this to happen for each subject, and they will be advising pupils what they need from them on a lesson by lesson basis.

Kingshill Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1HS

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e-mail: office@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk

www.cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk

Cirencester Kingshill School, registered in England and Wales under number 7686390





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Pastoral Support

As part of our continued pastoral care of pupils, all Tutors will hold Teams tutor sessions between 8:50am and 9:00am on Mondays. Heads of Year will deliver Teams assemblies to their year groups on Friday mornings between 8:50am and 9:00am. These sessions will enable the pupils to have direct contact with staff from a wellbeing angle at the beginning and end of the week. That said, if you or your child have any concerns, the Pastoral care team will be available daily to support you. Please don't hesitate to email your child's Tutor, Head of Year, Mrs Christopher or Mr Morland. We are committed to doing all we can to ensure the next few weeks are as positive an experience as they can be.

Below are two website links that might be helpful to parents and carers. In addition, at the end of this letter, there is an attachment offering a local opportunity, led by Teens in Crisis, for guidance on supporting a teenager with mental health concerns.

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/supporting-teenagers-during-lockdown>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/question/supporting-your-teen-during-the-coronavirus-lockdown/>

Mrs Christopher has also sent an email to all pupils this week offering support, and recommending some websites that they might find helpful if they are, or become, anxious over the next few weeks.

Free School Meals

During the current lockdown period, the school will continue to provide hampers on a fortnightly basis to those pupils entitled to Free School Meals.

If you have already registered for the hamper provision, you will automatically receive a hamper every two weeks. If your child is entitled to free school meals and you wish to register for a hamper, please email finance@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk or telephone the school on 01285 651511 **by 10:00am on Monday 18th January 2021**. You will need to confirm your child's name and tutor group.

Hamper collection

The hampers should be collected from the school dining room door, which is next to the Memorial Garden, between 11:30am – 2:30pm on the following dates:

- Friday 22nd January 2021: covers the weeks commencing Monday 18th and Monday 25th January 2021
- Friday 5th February 2021: covers the weeks commencing Monday 1st and Monday 8th February 2021

Please bring your own shopping bags with you. For everyone's safety, please can I ask that whoever is collecting the hamper **must not** be displaying any of the symptoms of COVID-19 or be unwell with any other illness, **must** not be self-isolating, **must** wear a face covering, **must** remain at a social distance of at least 2m, and **must** leave the school site as soon as the hamper has been collected.

If you no longer wish to receive a hamper for your child, please email finance@cirencesterkingshill.gloucs.sch.uk and you will be removed from the next order.

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Year 11 Assessment

As you will have heard and as confirmed in our letter to Y11 parents and carers earlier this week, there will be no GCSE or BTEC examinations for Y11 this summer.

The government and examination regulator (Ofqual) are currently engaged in a two-week consultation to establish the criteria for the teacher assessed grades that will be used. As soon as we hear more about this, we will let you know.

Our current advice to our Y11 pupils, is to continue to work hard with their home learning, and with their normal school work once they are back in school. This will give them the opportunity to continue to give the very best evidence to teachers at all times to support the assessment process.

We are currently planning to hold some more formal assessments of Y11, based on the work that they have covered, when they return to school, so that our evidence base of their performance is as robust and representative as possible. A more detailed response to how we will proceed with teacher assessed grades will be published once we have the guidance. We developed a very fair and robust approach to this exercise for last year's Y11, and we are very confident of delivering a fair and representative set of grades again this time around.

Lateral Flow Test Consent

You will all have received a letter on Wednesday 6th January 2021 requesting consent from you for your child to be tested in school for COVID-19 using the new lateral flow testing procedure. This programme is still going ahead, and we will commence testing of staff and those key worker pupils who are in school from next week.

If you are happy for your child to participate in the testing programme, please complete the online consent form here <https://bit.ly/2KV3HJ3> as soon as possible, so that we can complete the required administration ahead of any child returning to school. Full details are contained in the letter sent on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

Thank you once again to our entire community for the hard work that has taken place this week. It is very much appreciated by all of us in school.

Please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Miss C. S. Oates
Headteacher

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SUPPORTING A TEENAGER/ YOUNG PERSON WITH POOR MENTAL HEALTH

Join us for a two part session on supporting a teenager or young person with poor mental health.

Gain information, support and practical solutions.

You must attend both sessions.

25th January 2021 from 11.30am - 12.30pm
29th January 2021 from 7.30pm - 8.30pm

To book:
Call 0300 111 9000
Email carers@peopleplus.co.uk



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