

SALTLEY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

This week I had the unfortunate task of sending out the latest Public Health letters which now categorise the cases of students at Saltley Academy as an outbreak. What this means in practice is that we must all re-double our efforts to follow the guidance on hand washing, social distancing and following the restriction of the local lockdown measures. With too much frequency I see students break these rules in school and outside despite our new rigour practices of controlling pupil movement in and around the school.

At home you must monitor closely your children for signs and symptoms and not send them to school if they display a high temperature, a new/persistent cough or a loss/lack of taste or smell. In addition to this, if we send your child home as we believe they are poorly, you must isolate them for 14 days or get a test. Your child will not be allowed back to school until the 14 day period has expired or proof of a negative test and this decision is final.

Curriculum Consultation

I wrote last week to pupils explaining the curriculum changes we would have to make to prioritise Year 11 GCSE subjects. The parent consultation virtual meetings start on Wednesday 30th, 5-6 pm and continue on Thursday 1st throughout the school day. Please go to <http://saltley.academy/parental-meetings/> on the school website for the meeting links that are with a member of the Senior Leadership Team for your child's House.

Alongside the changes to the curriculum we will be making permanent changes to the school day. From next week, students will move to a 30 minute lunch period, which will be taken in the dining hall for all students. Students will sit on a table with only students in their year group who are also in their House. Students will continue to have a comfort break in the morning session, rather than returning to a normal break period. I know that these measures will not be welcomed by students, as free time and the ability to play outside are important for young people's social and emotional development. However, I have to prioritise student safety at this time and reinforce that all these changes are essential to enable us to control the spread of Covid-19 within the school and wider community.

Live Remote Lessons

Last week students were issued with new email addresses. These are essential to enable them to gain access to the live lessons that will be delivered if students have to isolate. I know working from home has caused frustrations for all of us, but I am very pleased to clarify the live lessons through Microsoft Teams will start this week. These lessons will be supplemented through resources on

Show My Homework. If there are any issues at all gaining access to these services, please speak to your Head of House.

Year 7 Parents

As you are aware, your child could not sit their end of Key Stage 2 SATs tests during their final year of primary school. The “standardised score” from the KS2 SATs is used by the government and schools to measure the level of progress that students make between the KS2 SATs and their GCSE exam results. At Saltley we use KS2 SATs data to set pathways and target grades for all students. This year we do not have this information in order to be able to give your son/daughter an appropriate target grade. We have therefore taken the decision to use the GL Assessment Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT). The CAT test assesses the ability to reason with and manipulate different types of material. These tests are a national test that will enable us to ensure your child has a realistic and achievable target pathway. Please be assured that your child cannot revise for these tests, they simply need to do their best on the day. The tests are digital and will take place in computer rooms over the next week.

Virtual Open Evening Tuesday 13th October

This year we will be hosting a virtual open evening, which any parent or pupil can join. We will be showcasing our new building with the facilities and space it offers, as well as the special designed Resource Base which is planned to increase its capacity up to 40 students over the next 3 years, providing State of the Art learning for students with Autism. Students and parents will be able to meet myself, the leadership team and see the classroom environment for a range of subjects and the truly first class facilities we are able to offer. The Open Evening itself will be live on the Saltley Academy YouTube channel on Tuesday 13th October at 3:45pm, but will also be recorded and available to watch at any time after. We do hope you will be able to join us.