



5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great sadness that I write to you following the announcement made by the Prime Minister on Monday evening. You will be aware that schools in England have been ordered to move all students to remote learning at home, with the exception of vulnerable children and children of key workers, until February half term.

Provision for vulnerable children and children of key workers

If you have informed us that your child meets the criteria and will be attending school from Wednesday 5th January, the following will apply:

- Students must wear full uniform.
- They must wear a face covering **at all times** whilst in school and when travelling to and from school.
- They should bring headphones in order to access remote learning on school devices.
- Students should arrive at the usual time; school buses will run as normal.
- Students will be in bubbles (Y7, Y8, Y9 & KS4).
- On arrival all students will use the **main entrance**, they will be directed to specific areas for their bubble.
- Students will be supervised to access remote learning.
- Food will be available at break and lunch; this will be a cold lunch only during the first week.
- Lunch will be provided for children in receipt of free school meals.
- Students will leave at the usual time; school buses will run as normal.
- We expect students to demonstrate exemplary behaviour whilst in school.

Remote Learning

All students will move to remote learning for the rest of this half term. Students should follow their existing timetable for the rest of this week and access work through the DRL. If your child is unsure how to do this, please visit the 'Remote Learning' area on our website. We will move to a simplified timetable from Monday 11th January, there will be separate correspondence regarding this and our website will be updated by the end of this week. It is vital that all students engage in remote learning and this will be monitored on a weekly basis. If your child is unable to access remote learning for any reason, please contact the relevant Head of Year.

Year 7 Miss L Williams lwilliams@lightcliffeacademy.co.uk

Year 8 Mrs J Richardson jrichardson@lightcliffeacademy.co.uk

Year 9 Mr J Greenwood jgreenwood@lightcliffeacademy.co.uk

Year 10 Mrs A Jackson ajackson@lightcliffeacademy.co.uk

Year 11 Mr C Truelove ctruelove2@lightcliffeacademy.co.uk

Free School Meals

In the short term, we will continue to provide food hampers for families in receipt of free school meals. These will be available for collection from the main entrance from Wednesday morning onwards.





Exams

The Prime Minister announced that exams will not go ahead; however, we are aware that students in years 11 & 13 will face some form of teacher-led assessment. We will keep you updated on developments as soon as information becomes available.

It is imperative that students don't 'give up' and they continue to engage in remote learning in order to prepare for these assessments.

Year 11 Reports & Parent's Evening

Year 11 reports will be sent out via email on Friday 8th January and parent's evening will go ahead remotely on Thursday 14th January, further details to follow.

Finally, I would like to reassure you that, whilst everything feels frustrating and uncertain at the moment, we will continue to work in partnership with you. Please see below information relating to safeguarding your child for reference.

You will have many questions, most of which I will be unable to answer at the moment; however, I will endeavour to keep you updated. Once again, thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to respond to increasingly challenging circumstances.

With very best wishes,

Roz Wood-Ives
Head of School



Safeguarding Update

We want to assure you that our responsibility to safeguard our students remains the highest priority and will do so throughout this next period of school closure.

Form Tutors, Heads of Year and other members of the pastoral/SEND teams will be in regular contact with families and students throughout the half-term. Please do answer the phone if you receive a call from a withheld number or the school phone number as it is likely to be us wanting to check in as to how things are going as well as offering any help in relation to remote learning.

It is also extremely important that all parents and carers feel supported and know that there are different agencies which you can access, if needed, to support both yourself and your child’s mental health during this difficult period. We understand there is likely to be an increase in anxiety for people within our community so please do contact us at school if you need any help or advice. Alternatively, the services listed in the directory below can be accessed by children and/or parents to give that extra level of support during this uncertain time.

Agency	Website/Contact Number	Reason for contact
Anna Freud - National Centre for Children and Families	https://www.annafreud.org/what-we-do/anna-freud-learning-network/coronavirus/	Support and Advice for young people, parents and carers
Childline - online, on the phone, call 08001111-free. See website for recent changes to contact times	https://www.childline.org.uk/	If you need someone to talk to, they listen. They won't judge.
Kooth	https://www.kooth.com/	Online support for young people
Mind - for better mental health	https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/	You are feeling anxious or worried
Mindmate	https://www.mindmate.org.uk/	If you are a young person, Mindmate can help you understand the way you're feeling and find the right advice and support.
NHS - Every Mind Matters	www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/	How to look after your mental wellbeing while staying at home
Open Minds - Calderdale	http://www.openmindscalderdale.org.uk/	Resources to support the emotional wellbeing of children and young people and their families at this difficult time.
Plac2Be - Improving Children's Mental Health	https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-information-for-children/	Helpful information to support children's mental health



Samaritans – call - 116123 (24 hours a day, 365 days a year) or email at jo@samaritans.org	www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/contact-samaritan/	If you need someone to talk to, they listen. They won't judge.
Stem 4	https://stem4.org.uk/	Supporting teenage mental health
Young Minds	https://youngminds.org.uk/	Concerns about a young person's health. Available to young people and parents
Accident and Emergency at Calderdale Royal Hospital		If a young person is at crisis point.
Police - Local Police General Advice	Call: 101	Police to ask for advice regarding an issue which is concerning about the young person.

All young people are likely to be spending additional time online over this lockdown period. Sadly, this is a fact not lost on predators who will seek to exploit children through online platforms including social media and gaming. Please be vigilant in monitoring your child's online and social media activity so that you can protect them from harm. As always, we are available to offer support and advice around online safety and any other safeguarding issue so contact us on la-safeguarding@lightcliffeacademy.co.uk if you need help.