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26th June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Coronavirus Update – (0165-19NLI)

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. As stated last week, we will be communicating with you in writing on a weekly basis.

What are we doing to support your child's learning?

Extension of our Remote Learning Offer

I wrote to you last week to highlight a development of our remote learning package and the possibility of pre-recorded lessons. A group of leading teachers across Swift Academies are working on developing this package; this will be trialled with chosen classes before the summer holidays to work towards a successful package come September. This has many exciting possibilities, even once pupils are back in school full time.

Recovery Curriculum

The recovery curriculum continues behind the scenes. Staff are adapting their curriculums and responding to the needs of all individuals by modifying their long term plans, medium term plans and lesson resources; teachers are assessing all the key knowledge that is covered in the summer term to ensure this knowledge is interleaved throughout the autumn term and beyond.

Retrieval Strategies

Progress is knowing more and remembering more. To help the pupils gain the independence and resilience of retrieving the key aspects of knowledge, we have introduced six Knowledge Retrieval Strategies to the pupils, one each week via email and twice via letter. Please compliment this process at home by supporting the pupils to use the retrieval strategies to retrieve their knowledge on a topic they have been studying. The six Knowledge Retrieval Strategies will be a key focus in lessons, when pupils are back in the building.

Homework

To support the pupils further with their learning and address any gaps in knowledge, we have created a new homework package for the next academic year. Pupils will have a consistent homework timetable that allows them to address key topics and retrieve the key knowledge from those using the six Knowledge Retrieval Strategies. *More information on this package will come to you in September.*



We Are Longfield Curriculum

We aspire to embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life. Pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their well-being, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Pupils can also put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts.

At Longfield Academy we have created the We Are Longfield Curriculum that personalises the components of PSHE, Relationships and Sex Education, Citizenship, Personal Development, assemblies and key dates to create one cohesive package for our pupils at Longfield Academy. Not only will this support pupils during their time with us but in adult life too. *More information on this will come to you in September outlining all aspects of the curriculum.*

School Timings

The overall school timings of the day remain the same - 8:45am until 3:20pm. However, after carefully considering the format of the school day, from September we are slightly changing the timings within the school framework to the below. We feel these changes will have a positive impact on pupil effort and ability to focus on their learning.

8:45am – 9:00am: AM Registration
9:00am – 10:00am: Lesson 1
10:00am – 11:00am: Lesson 2
11:00am – 11.20am: WeAreLongfield Daily
11:20am – 11:35am: Break
11:35am – 12:35pm: Lesson 3
12:35pm – 1:20pm: Lunch time
1:20pm – 2:20pm: Lesson 4
2:20pm – 3:20pm: Lesson 5

Year 10 Parents / Carers

Please encourage your child to check their school email account on Monday as there will be a video link from key staff, explaining all things Year 11 including Intervention, Mentoring, Revision and Passport to Prom.

Social Media

During the lock down period, we have increased our efforts to use different forms of social media to engage with pupils, parents / carers and the wider community. Facebook is updated frequently and aims to provide information on a range of different aspects. These include careers information, resources and tools to help parents / carers with teaching and learning, Showcase Thursday, good news stories and challenges which will help promote engagement in the family home and community. Twitter is used in conjunction with Facebook and portrays similar information as we try to engage and reach as many people within our local community as possible.

Using different forms of social media will hopefully allow us to share and celebrate more as a wider community and increase the aspirations of our young people. As a school, we really want to hear from you more frequently to celebrate some of the remarkable achievements our young people are doing at home and in the community.

We have created a socialmedia@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk email address and actively encourage pupils to share with us their stories and photos of all the remarkable things they have been doing. We want this to promote a sense of cohesive community spirit and help celebrate

#WeAreLongfield. During the month of June, we have created a challenge called 'Can you bank enough point to become a Millionaire!?' This is where pupils and parents / carers are encouraged to complete set challenges to gain points.

Full details can be found on FB. https://issuu.com/jraw-longfield.swiftacademies./docs/13562-how-to-play--longfield_v2

We have recently added an alumni section to the school website and would really like to hear what our former pupils are doing now. This will be used in and around school to help inspire our pupils. Please find the details below and share the information in our community

<https://longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk/alumniform/>

Many departments in School are now using Instagram. These have proved very useful in engaging and inspiring pupils. Please take this opportunity to follow us and engage in all forms of social media and develop a common purpose which will give all of our pupils the best opportunities possible.

School Website

Can I please once again please stress to you the excellence in these times of the Longfield Academy website, which has recently been updated. All of the above information, as well as the letters we send home during the school closure, are uploaded to our website. I would also like to highlight the SWIFT Coronavirus section, which is an amalgamation of Department for Education, Public Health and various mental health, welfare and educational resources and ideas - as a 'one stop shop' for all things related to COVID education and family welfare: <https://swiftacademies.org.uk/covid19/>

As always, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school via enquiries@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk or telephone Reception on 01325 380 815.

Thank you for you continued support during this difficult time.

#WeAreLongfield

Yours sincerely,



Mr N Lindsay
Head of School