

ASHFIELD SCHOOL

A DfE ACADEMY SPECIALISING IN TECHNOLOGY, LANGUAGES & APPLIED LEARNING

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HEADTEACHER Mr J Maher

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing with a brief school update and to thank you for your support this half term. School will be closed for half term next week (15th – 19th February) and re-open for live lessons on Monday 22nd February.

Remote Learning

We have all worked well together this half term to connect students each day with their teachers, friends and peers through live lessons, tutor time and assemblies.

Attendance at live lessons and the engagement from students of all year groups have both been excellent and given the large number of Ashfield students this represents a great collective effort from students, staff and parents.

The Ashfield team of teaching and support staff have greatly appreciated your reassuring messages of thanks and support at a time when winter and lockdown have combined to create anxiety and uncertainty in everyone. I hope you and our students feel proud of their efforts.

Students have proved remarkably resilient and upbeat in live lessons and it gives me the hope and expectation that we will be able to pick up where we left off when students return to school. In the meantime, year teams will continue to reward high levels of engagement in assemblies and to celebrate outstanding work.

Live lessons will continue after half term and we would again welcome your support in encouraging students to re-engage enthusiastically with all lessons from Monday 22nd February.

School Re-opening Plans

The earliest proposed date for phased national school re-opening is 8th March and the Government have promised a more detailed update on how this will be managed on 22nd February. Once we know the details, we will plan accordingly and share our plan with you.

Year 11 and Post 16 Examination Grades

The final proposals for awarding exam grades will also be published on 22nd February. Our priority then will be for a clear plan and timeline to be put in place and shared with parents and students to provide reassurance and support.

In the meantime, the consistent message worth repeating to all students is that they should continue to work hard in lessons and maintain a positive outlook.

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Ashfield School
Initial Teacher Training



Ashfield Post 16 Applications

Year 11 students who wish to stay on at Ashfield Post 16 next year are advised to apply for Post 16 places through the school website as soon as possible even if they are uncertain over final grades and chosen courses. This year more than ever, we will work to find the right pathway for you. Follow the link for information: [Post 16 Details](#)

Parents' Evenings

Year 11 Parents' Evening, scheduled for Thursday 25th March, is likely to take place via student Teams accounts. More details will follow nearer the date. It is likely that for the rest of this academic year all face-to-face events will be moved to Teams. We will communicate details to the relevant year group prior to each scheduled event.

Year 8 Options

Year 8 Options will be launched straight after half term and a letter has been emailed to parents this week explaining the process by which we will deliver the course information and guidance.

World Book Day

'Drop Everything and Read' (DEAR) week will begin on 1st March during which we will all be encouraged to escape into a book.

With talk of lost learning in the media, one effective solution would be for every student to read a book a week and develop a lifelong and life enhancing habit.

Follow the link to find our excellent library newsletter: [Library newsletter](#). It includes some fantastic free resources and activities.

The future

As a school we look forward to welcoming everyone back as soon as possible. We have all learned new skills during this lockdown and done very well to keep connected and develop live lessons.

However, to see students back in the classroom will be a sure sign that we are moving towards a sunnier future.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please continue to contact your relevant year team.

Thanks



John Maher
Headteacher

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