

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we continue to prepare for our start to the spring term, albeit virtually, I would like to share with you the plans we will be putting in place to support learning at Lacon Childe School for the foreseeable future. With the first lockdown we had 3 days' notice in school which gave time for our students to collect their exercise books. This time we do not have that luxury. Hopefully, the guidance below will outline how we intend to overcome this issue.

On Friday evening the DfE provided an update to the guidance we should follow. Children of critical workers must only return to school as a last resort and should remain at home wherever possible. This is a change to the guidance they provided on Friday morning. Please only send your children into school if there is absolutely no alternative. The message to "Stay Home" is being made louder and clearer by the government.

On Monday, all lessons for all students will be delivered online through Microsoft Teams. Your children will be required to join lessons and follow their school timetable. Next week is week 1.

Teachers will set work during these lessons which could require your children working independently to complete.

Students who are in school will follow the same procedure, logging into lessons and completing work in school. They must all wear correct school uniform and will bring a packed lunch until catering can provide meals. They will work in newly formed class bubbles and will be expected to maintain social distancing and behave appropriately. We will send home any child who refuses to accept these rules.

On Monday morning, we will collect all student exercise books from classrooms and sort them in the school hall in individual student piles. We will then begin distributing them through a collection process which we would like all parents/carers to follow.

1. Books will be made available for collection from 1pm until 3pm on Monday 11th January.
2. From Tuesday 12th January, collection times will be between 9am and 11am, 11.30am until 1pm and 2pm until 3pm every day next week. We will not continue doing this after Friday 15th January.
3. Parents/carers arrive at school in the top car park where you will be greeted by a member of staff.
4. Please remain in your vehicle or in the small Country Centre Car Park when waiting for your child's books.
5. The member of staff will radio into school with your child's details, name and form.
6. Your child's books will be picked and then delivered to you in the waiting area
7. All members of staff handling books will have used hand sanitiser and wear protective gloves when handling books. They will also use a face covering. I would ask you to do the same.

As we are all trying to minimise the contact between people now, I would ask that all parents/carers who come in to collect books always observe social distancing guidance.

Year 9 Options and option choices will be done online this year. Ms Johnston and Mr Roff will be contacting all parents, carers and Year 9 students to go through this process this year. Year 9 will

have their exams when we are able to return to school. We will give you all as much notice of the dates as we can, pending our return to school.

All GCSE and BTEC exams have been cancelled by the government. I have written to all parents, carers and Year 11 students about this. They will still have mock exams and other assessment opportunities to provide evidence for the grades that they are awarded by school staff.

We have been made aware that mobile network providers are increasing data packages free of charge to support online learning. Please enquire at your network provider. This information link to USWITCH provides more details.

<https://www.uswitch.com/mobiles/news/2021/01/uk-government-launches-data-increase-initiative-for-children/>

We are also aware that it is possible to access Microsoft Teams and Outlook through PlayStation and Xbox gaming consoles. The following YouTube clip from Pontypridd High School explains how to do this.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CiNzN8QxIRI>

During these very challenging and uncertain times we will continue to keep you updated on a regular basis and are always available via email or telephone should you have any queries.

Please take care, observe the guidance and remain healthy.

Darren Reynolds