



# Holy Family Catholic High School Weekly Newsletter

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*'To grow in wisdom and grace.'*

Friday 8th January 2021

## Mrs Mitchell's Update

Happy New Year everyone!

It has been an interesting week in school as we have navigated: online learning; setting up our key school provision, lockdown and exam announcements, 'mass testing' information and training, a local power cut and resetting many, many passwords!

It is with the sheer determination and will-power of our staff, students, parents and community that we have reached the weekend and achieved so much.

Our online learning is working well and we have had excellent attendance and engagement in lessons. Attendance shows 92% of students accessing live lessons today!

It has been great to see our students helping each other, sorting out technical issues and finding solutions to problems. Teachers have commented on the great discussions and high quality of work that they are seeing.

All of our IT skills have improved this week and we thank you for setting up all your devices at home!

If families are struggling with access to the internet or your child needs a device to access the online learning, please get in touch. If your child's only device is their phone, they will struggle to access some of the work, so please make us aware and we will see what we can do. Email: [enquiry@holyfamilycarlton.org](mailto:enquiry@holyfamilycarlton.org)

Vouchers are being sent to parents for students entitled to free school meals. The National Free School Meal Voucher Scheme has not been set up as yet, so we are sourcing and sending these from school.

We have some exercise books and paper in our school porch if your child needs these resources. This is open from 7.30am to 5pm.

With the late announcements, it has been challenging to ensure that everything is in place and we appreciate your patience as we solved the 'teething problems' this week. Please be aware that we are juggling staff between supervising our 'Key School' provision and delivering lessons online so there will be a mixture of live lessons and remote learning on Microsoft Teams and Class Charts.

Suggested activities for PSHCE and enrichment (Monday Lesson 5) are on Class Charts along with suggested activities for your child's PE lessons.

If your child is struggling with the work or you feel that they need some 'wellbeing' support, please get in touch, we are here to help. During the next few weeks we will be checking in with parents and carers to see how things are going from your end. We are also asking students to send a message on Class Charts to their form tutor between 2.50 and 3pm each day to let us know how they are and how their lessons have gone. Our Wellbeing In Mind Team are still working with students, remotely and in a Covid safe way in school. We have made arrangements for other organisations supporting students to be able to continue their work and we thank them for their support of our students.

Staff will be uploading praise and any behaviour issues from next week on the Parent App so please ensure that you are signed up to this app which we launched before Christmas. There are details below on how to sign up if you have not already done so. We will be using the Parent App as our primary means of communication to parents/carers.

All of the critical workers who have requested provision have secured places for their children in our key school. This has been set up across four 'bubbles' and all students in school are accessing the online work.

Any future requests for places need to come through our school email: [enquiry@holyfamilycarlton.org](mailto:enquiry@holyfamilycarlton.org) and we will send confirmation of places via return email.

We are waiting for details of the Ofqual consultation on the grading of Y11 students this year. We will be keeping our Y11 students and their parents informed when we know more. We are very proud of our Year 11 students and their ongoing positive attitude to their learning.

We hope that you are all okay and keeping safe. All your positive comments have been a real boost to staff this week. As always, if we can help or support you in any way please let us know. Have a relaxing weekend everyone,

Mrs Mitchell

*"The expert at anything was once a beginner."* Helen Hayes

A new invitation email for the Parent App has been sent out to all parents/carers who have not yet signed up. This email will come from [noreply@sims.co.uk](mailto:noreply@sims.co.uk) and will contain an invitation link with a unique invitation code (included in the email). Previous invitation codes will no longer work. Please check you spam/junk folders as well! If you are a parent/carer with parental responsibility and you are priority 1 or 2 contact for your child, then you should get an email (unless you have already signed up). If you haven't and think that you fit the criteria, then please contact school via [enquiry@holyfamilycarlton.org](mailto:enquiry@holyfamilycarlton.org). Similarly, if you would like the Parent App booklet sent out to you again, then please contact the school as above.