



TOP TIP – Viewing teacher feedback on pdfs or image files

Students may not be accessing all the feedback comments given by a teacher unless they open their original document in a new window. This short video explains how to do this: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slUSNdlb_GQ

**COVID-19 Weekly Newsletter
For Parents, Carers and Students
29 January 2021**

Wayne Jenkins - Headteacher

Introduction/Headlines

A warm welcome to our second newsletter. Please note that we may repeat one or two key bits of information each week that are important or need action.

Over the last week there has been much speculation in the press about when schools will fully open again and it is not helpful to students, parents, carers or College staff. In fact, it often creates frustration and anxiety. It has been rare, since the start of the pandemic, that schools have been provided with much clarity or advance notice. We are however, pleased that we now have at least some certainty about what will be happening in the coming weeks (although we are, of course, disappointed that we won't have everyone back in College for a little while yet). The key announcements by the Prime Minister on Wednesday in Parliament were as follows:

- The earliest schools might 'begin to re-open' will be Monday 8 March, which is the start of the third school week after the half-term holiday.
- There will be a plan/review set out on Monday 22 February (the first day after the half-term holiday), with further updates.
- Schools will get two weeks' notice from when the decision is made for schools to re-open.

At present, this means that we have at least four more school weeks of students learning at home under the current arrangements. I know that this will be bitterly disappointing for many families and the children, but I hope that it provides some hope that there might be an end in sight, at least in terms of getting the children back into school.

We also received a clarification from the Department for Education (DfE) this week that schools would not be asked to open over half-term for children of critical workers as was the case in the first lock-down. However, the College is required to carry out the track and trace process over half term, so if your child is attending College, shows symptoms before we break up and then subsequently receives a positive Covid-19 test result over half term, please let us know by emailing absence@helston.cornwall.sch.uk.

One of the things that keeps me going through these times is seeing a sample of the excellent work that students have produced. Please encourage your child to share their best work with me via the Year Group Google Classrooms; this gives me an opportunity to engage with them directly.



Post 16 and Year 11

Starting on 4 February, the Post 16 team will be aiming to interview all the Year 11 students remotely. This is a chance to discuss their ambitions, aspirations and their Post 16 Options. Letters have been sent to parents directly, however, if you need more information please contact Mrs Jane Rowe (JRowe@helston.cornwall.sch.uk).

Eugene McFadden – Assistant Headteacher

Remote Learning Provision

We are trying to make the remote learning experience as close to normal school as possible. As such, we recommend that your child logs into the Year Group Pastoral Google Classroom each morning and registers by clicking ‘Yes’ on the ‘Are you joining us for home learning today?’ question.

All students that regularly register will be entered into prize draws with the opportunity to win gift vouchers. There will also be weekly assemblies, competitions, quizzes and challenges in the Pastoral Classrooms.

Hopefully this week you will have noticed an increase in the number of live tutorials taking place. Please remind yourselves and your child of the appropriate protocols when taking part in a Google Meet. [Link here](#)

I would be grateful if you could complete this quick survey, so that you can provide us with feedback on what is going well with our online learning provision and what can be improved. <https://forms.gle/BeHacWdwcrU2vzEb7>

Justine Hart – Assistant Headteacher

Free School Meals

Free School Meals vouchers will be issued on a weekly basis by Southerly Point Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust and will be sent out via email, or by post if this is not possible. Vouchers will be ordered every Friday and should be released within 4 days of the order being approved. If you have any specific queries please email accounts@southerlypoint.co, providing your child's name. The Government has provided a FAQ document which can be found on the College website here [Edenred FAQ](#).

Important Dates

Year 9 - the Year 9 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will take place by video call on Wednesday 3 February 2021. Thereafter there is the Year 9 Virtual Options Evening on Wednesday 10 February 2021.

Year 11 - remote interviews to discuss Post 16 Options will take place from Thursday 4 February until Friday 12 February 2021.

Keyworker Provision Bookings

We now have over 10% of our students attending in-school provision, which is double the national average for secondary schools, and we are approaching the maximum capacity that we can accommodate in College. It is important to note that this provision may be removed from students who fail to maintain high standards of behaviour. We need to keep everyone safe and poor behaviour is unacceptable.

Complex rotas are in place to allow staff to fulfil their teaching commitments, both for students engaged in remote learning and students accessing the in-school provision. It is therefore crucial that we are aware of the numbers attending, as there is a significant amount of advance planning required.

A link to the booking form by email and/or text each Wednesday will be sent to parents and carers of keyworkers and vulnerable students who have informed us that they require on-site



provision at College. Please could we ask that you complete the form by **1pm each Friday**, to allow us to organise our staffing for the following week.

If there is a last minute change to your work schedule and you need emergency child care support, then please phone us on 01326 572685 or email enquiries@helston.cornwall.sch.uk.

Students attending in-school provision need to bring their own earphones with them so that they can listen to recorded lessons (lightning connector and bluetooth earphones do not work).

Nuala Dalton – Inclusion Manager

Student Support

Adjusting to being in lockdown and the demands of online learning can be difficult for the whole family. Please see the attached poster which is called "Ten ways for parents to help children cope with change". More information can be found at <https://youngminds.org.uk/>.

The Red Cross has also developed an activity pack to help students cope with challenges and understand their feelings; this can be found here [Free kindness home learning pack \(redcross.org.uk\)](http://redcross.org.uk).

If you have any questions or would like some support during lockdown, please get in touch on the main school number 01326 572685 and ask to speak to a member of the pastoral team.

The College has updated a number of policies in recent months and the relevant page on our website is here – [Policies](#). One significant change we have made is to extract the ‘anti-bullying’ section from our Behaviour Policy and created a more robust separate policy. We would welcome feedback from parents and carers on this new policy. Please email me at ndalton@helston.cornwall.sch.uk with your views on our Anti-Bullying Policy.

Other Important Information

Canteen	Our canteen is open to keyworker students attending College; please follow this link for the weekly menu. Students: Main Meal £2.00, Dessert £0.75, Meal deal £2.35.
Library	Due to current Covid restrictions, the HCC Library will provide a click and collect/delivery service to all students. For further information, please visit our Library Services on our website. For library log in details; or if you require a particular book please email mLawford@helston.cornwall.sch.uk . For delivery enquiries please email srogers@helston.cornwall.sch.uk .