



Southerly Point
Co-operative
Multi-Academy Trust

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TOP TIP – Visit our Remote Learning Portal if you are struggling to access key online learning tools. Next to each link there is an explanation of how to log on to each system.

COVID-19 Weekly Newsletter For Parents, Carers and Students 25 January 2021

Wayne Jenkins - Headteacher

Introduction/Headlines

Welcome to our first Covid-19 newsletter, which we have produced to pass on key information in one communication rather than lots of separate emails. We hope it will prove to be a useful reference source.

Grading consultation

The Government has launched a joint consultation with Ofqual on how grades should be awarded in summer 2021. The consultation closes at 11:45pm on Friday 29 January. They want to hear the views of students who were due to take their exams this year, their parents and carers, as well as their teachers and school and college leaders.

The proposal is a consultation and the plans could change. The one thing that appears to be certain is that they will be 'Teacher Assessed grades'. So we want to emphasise the importance of engaging with remote learning and continuing to submit work online during this lockdown period.

The proposal is quite lengthy, but we have tried to summarise the situation for a range of courses into one or two sentences. In essence, the Government's consultation proposes the following:

A-levels, AS, GCSE: The consultation suggests that teacher assessed grades could be guided by a test provided by exam boards, which will be used in conjunction with other evidence. It is proposed that these tests are sat in late May and early June. The proposal also states that Non-Exam Assessments (coursework) should be completed (as far as is possible). Some subjects which have a large NEA component (e.g. Art) are likely to use the NEA without a test.

Applied Courses (BTEC, Cambridge Nationals etc.) will rely more on internal assessments. Internal assessments should be completed (as far as is possible). In many cases, additional assessment evidence from teachers will be essential to enable the award of a qualification.

We realise that these proposals may create more questions than answers, so we hope that the final decisions by Ofqual are made promptly.

If you would like to respond to the consultation, please follow the instructions on this link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

**Please be aware that there are around 70 questions and not all will seem relevant.
The outcome is likely to be announced in the week beginning 22nd February.**



During this academic year we have experienced a number of staffing changes within our Pastoral Support team. Attached to this newsletter is a diagram of key personnel who have a specific role in supporting children in Key Stage 3 and 4. The year group PSA is usually the first point of contact for parents and carers. They will remain with a particular year group as they transition through the College. Relevant email addresses can be found on our website staff directory: [Staff directory link](#)

Paula Martin – Deputy Headteacher

Online Learning

It is heartening to see so many students engaging with the remote learning. We really miss having all the students in College and are pleased to see students uploading some outstanding work to their teachers via their Google Classrooms. We are constantly reviewing our provision and will be sending out a link to a parent survey next week, so that you can provide us with feedback on what is going well with our online learning provision and what can be improved.

There are many different perceptions about what works best with remote education and it is very difficult to meet everyone's needs. Here are some key pointers from research carried out by Ofsted.

Remote education is a way of delivering the curriculum

Keep it simple

When adapting the curriculum, focus on the basics

Feedback, retrieval practice and assessment are more important than ever

The medium matters (a bit)

Live lessons aren't always best

Engagement matters, but is only the start

David Lewis – Assistant Headteacher

Safeguarding/Wellbeing

We are doing our best to stay in touch with all of our students while we are not in College together but please don't feel you have to wait for a call if there is something that you would like some help or advice with. If you have any questions or would like some support, please get in touch with a member of the pastoral team and we will do what we can to help out.

We are aware that the Covid crisis and the lockdown has had an impact on the mental health of many people. The Anna Freud Centre is a well regarded charity who are leading the way in the UK supporting mental health.

Children can find more help on the following link [On My Mind \(annafreud.org\)](#)

The organisation is not just for children and parents can find help and support by clicking here [Self-care for parents and carers \(annafreud.org\)](#)

Covid-19 – In School Lateral Flow Testing

We have begun to roll out our testing programme in College, testing our staff members over the last week. We are beginning our testing of students who are attending the key worker provision this week. In line with the latest guidance, we are only testing to identify asymptomatic cases as part of our measures to keep the College environment as safe as possible; we are not using daily tests as an alternative to isolating for close contacts of positive cases.

If you have not yet completed the parent consent form to allow your child to be tested using the lateral flow devices, or to inform us you do not want them to be tested, please complete the form on the following link.

[Covid-19 Lateral Flow Testing Consent Form \(google.com\)](#)



Dave Dudley – Assistant Headteacher

IT

A number of staff have produced short 'how to' videos to help with a range of online IT issues. These will start to be uploaded to the remote learning portal this week.

We have a small number of Chromebooks available to loan out to students who have limited access to a device and have been informed that the next delivery is unlikely to be before March. Please contact Mrs J Rowe (Jrowe@helston.cornwall.sch.uk) if you would like to request a loan. Sadly due to the limited stock we may not be able to grant all requests.

The Government has informed us that a number of mobile phone providers are temporarily increasing the data allowance for students. This would enable them to use their phones as a 'hotspot' to enable devices to connect to the internet. The College would need apply on your behalf. For more information and to provide the information we to apply for you please visit: <https://forms.gle/mojv9mVKtKhTcf5s6>

Post 16

Parents and carers of **Year 11** students are invited to attend the Virtual Post 16 Open Evening along with their children. This event will be taking place on Thursday 28 January 2021 by video link and we would like to encourage students to sign up for appointments to talk to the Post 16 subject teachers and to find out more about the courses they are interested in. Shortly after we will be inviting all year 11 students to online interview to discuss their options and possible course choices. For more information on the range of courses on offer, please watch the various subject videos on our website (<https://tinyurl.com/y436cfq2>).

We have been really pleased with the positive feedback from students and a number of parents regarding the way we are approaching remote education. We asked a selection of our Year 12 and 13 students for their views in a short survey regarding the online provision. Teachers are using a range of online resources and approaches to help students make progress, and reassuringly, students preferred method of learning seems in general to match that which teachers are currently providing. If you have concerns, however, about the online work, please contact me at the College (ddudley@helston.cornwall.sch.uk)

University applications and the UCAS deadline (for Year 13 students) – The UCAS deadline of the 15 of January has been now extended to 29 January (18:00). If any student needs help with their personal statement or application form they should contact their tutor or Danny Gillman at College.

The Government has launched a joint consultation with Ofqual on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021. The consultation closes at 11:45pm on Friday 29th January. Mr Jenkins has outlined the details in his section above. I would emphasise that these are proposals and that whilst the consultation form is very long, I would encourage those who are affected to provide feedback to the Government.

Eugene McFadden – Assistant Headteacher

Key Stage 3

Thank you to all the students who have filled in our KS3 'remote learning' feedback forms. This will help us to fine tune our support and online provision. We are making use of the KS3 pastoral Google classrooms (one for each year group), please make sure that your child checks these as their first port of call each day as there will be regular messages, competitions and posts of interest.

There is a simple Google form added to each pastoral classroom that your child can complete to request support or help.



SEN

The Learning Champions have been ringing around all our pupils with additional needs to ensure that everything is running smoothly. If there are any issues for your child, please contact their Learning Champion as their first port of call.

Justine Hart – Assistant Headteacher

Free School Meals

Due to a change in the government process from the week commencing 18 January 2021, we will be moving to Edenred to issue Free School Meals vouchers.

The MAT Office is currently in the process of ordering the vouchers; these will be sent out by email if we have an email address for you on our College system and by post otherwise. Vouchers will be ordered every Friday for that week and should be released within 4 days of the order being approved, but please bear with us for the first week while the new system is established.

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.

Important Dates

We have some important events coming up in the next few weeks, which will still be taking place despite the current lockdown, albeit in a different format.

Year 11 - Parents and carers are invited to attend the Virtual Post 16 Open Evening, along with their children. This event will take place by video link on Thursday 28 January 2021. This event will be followed in February by online interviews with all Year 11 students to discuss their options and possible course choices.

Year 9 - Next week, parents and carers will receive an invitation to attend the Year 9 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening, which will take place on Wednesday 3 February 2021. Further details including how to book appointments will be included in the invitation. This event will be followed by the Year 9 Virtual Options Evening on Wednesday 10 February 2021. Details about this event and the options process will be sent out shortly.

Keyworker Provision Bookings

We have 10% of our students attending in-school provision at the moment, which is double the national average for secondary schools. This requires approximately 11 teachers plus support staff in College each day to supervise and requires advanced planning.

Parents and carers who have informed us that they require places on the College's provision for the children of keyworkers and vulnerable students will be sent a link to the booking form by email and/or text each Wednesday. Please could we ask that you complete the form by **1pm each Friday**, to allow us to organise our staffing for the following week.

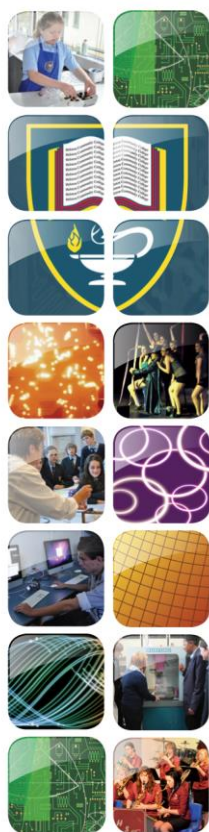
If there is a last minute change to your work schedule and you need emergency child care support, then please phone us on 01326 572685 or email enquiries@helston.cornwall.sch.uk.

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

The Pastoral Support Team are here to give help and support to students as well as providing information, advice and guidance. During this lockdown period Pastoral Support Assistants and class Tutors will be phoning students homes regularly to check in with families and see if students are experiencing any difficulties. Families are welcome to contact the Pastoral Support Team during school hours with any queries or concerns.



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 create 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 .
School Governors needed	YOU ARE NEEDED! Looking to give something back? Wanting to feel of use? Looking for a new challenge? From Crowan to Porthleven, across Helston and the Lizard: Your local schools need your help right now! Have you had experience of any of the following: working with young people; safeguarding; premises work or health and safety checks; or being on a Board and asking the right questions? Then you could be just what we are looking for to join our Trust as a volunteer governor. Full training is provided. For a preliminary, no commitment conversation, please contact our Trust Administrator, Karen Teague, by emailing kteague@southerlypoint.co . See our website for more details of our schools.