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Headteacher: Mr S Yalden BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Our Ref: SYA/HWI

28 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I'm sure that many of you will have been following the news have picked up on the recent statement regarding school closures, I wanted however to make sure everyone was as up to date as possible.

The key announcements from parliament were as follows:

- The **earliest** schools might 'begin to re-open' will be Monday 8 March
- There will be a plan/review set out on Monday 22 February (the first day after the half-term holiday\*), with further updates
- When the decision to return has been made, schools will get two weeks' notice of this.

Sadly, this means that we have at least four more school weeks of distance learning under the current lockdown arrangements. I know that this will be 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 children back into school.

We also received a clarification from the Department for Education (DfE) that schools would not be asked to open over half-term for children of critical workers, as was the case in the first lockdown. I don't think anyone was particularly expecting there to be an offer, but I thought it was worth sharing in case anyone had been wondering. \*This also includes Monday 22 February which will be a INSET as planned.

### **Distance Learning**

It is perhaps timely, that on the receipt of that announcement, that I write to inform you of some changes to our distance learning and on-site provision from Monday 1 February. This follows our parent survey. Many thanks to those of you who took the time to share your views on the provision up to this point. We had some 145 responses representing all year groups which was really pleasing to see. We appreciate the help that you are giving at home, with most of you spending around three hours a day supporting your child with learning.

It was clear from the responses that many of you wanted more opportunity for live online learning episodes through the use of Microsoft Teams, so a schedule of sessions has been constructed representing the full range of subjects that all students can attend without clashes. The overview will allow you to see when sessions fall across the week which will be booked with your child through their Outlook Calendar. Students can log into the full range of Office products including Teams and Outlook at <https://www.office.com/>. If your child does have issues logging into their academy email address or accessing Teams then please contact [ithelp@looe.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:ithelp@looe.cornwall.sch.uk) so this can be resolved. The focus of

these Microsoft Teams sessions is to provide teaching to students and it is expected that all students attend these virtual sessions unless other arrangements have been made previously due to your family circumstances. Distance learning will still be made available on Satchel One, however, this will be reduced compared with previous weeks in recognition of the time spent in the Teams sessions. This also recognises that some families fed back positively about the previous provision and the flexibilities around the use of time that that brought.

Attendance to Microsoft Teams sessions and engagement with Satchel One is monitored and concerns will be followed up by tutors contacting families in the first instance. A referral to Education Welfare will be made where serious concerns arise. Should you need support with technology then please do contact us so that we can assist at [ithelp@looe.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:ithelp@looe.cornwall.sch.uk). Some parents who responded to the parent survey did not leave their name or contact details so please use that service if you think you might need to.

### Microsoft Teams Schedule

Start time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:40	Your child tutor will contact them about one morning a week to meet as a tutor group.				
09:05	7 SCIENCE 8 GEOGRAPHY 9 EPR 10 ART 11 Satchel One	7 Satchel One 8 Satchel One 9 MFL 10 ONE YEAR COURSES 11 ONE YEAR COURSES	7 GEOGRAPHY 8 Satchel One 9 MATHS 10 Satchel One 11 Satchel One	7 Satchel One 8 COMP SCIENCE 9 Satchel One 10 HISTORY 11 FRENCH	7 Satchel One 8 Satchel One 9 Satchel One 10 Satchel One 11 Satchel One
10:05	7 EPR 8 SCIENCE 9 Satchel One 10 DRAMA 11 ART	7 HISTORY 8 ART/DANCE/DRAMA 9 GEOGRAPHY 10 SPANISH 11 DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	7 ENGLISH 8 Satchel One 9 TECHNOLOGY 10 GEOGRAPHY 11 MATHS	7 Satchel One 8 HISTORY 9 MUSIC 10 FRENCH 11 COMP SCIENCE	7 Satchel One 8 Satchel One 9 Satchel One 10 Satchel One 11 Satchel One
11:25	7 Satchel One 8 EPR 9 SCIENCE 10 Satchel One 11 Satchel One	7 PE 8 MFL 9 ART/DANCE/DRAMA 10 Satchel One 11 Satchel One	7 Satchel One 8 MATHS 9 Satchel One 10 PE 11 PE	7 Satchel One 8 MUSIC 9 COMP SCIENCE 10 Satchel One 11 Satchel One	7 Satchel One 8 Satchel One 9 Satchel One 10 Satchel One 11 Satchel One
12:25	7 ART 8 Satchel One 9 Satchel One 10 SCIENCE 11 EPR	7 MFL 8 PE 9 Satchel One 10 Satchel One 11 HISTORY	7 TECHNOLOGY 8 Satchel One 9 PE 10 MATHS 11 GEOGRAPHY	7 COMP SCIENCE 8 Satchel One 9 Satchel One 10 ENGLISH 11 MUSIC	7 Satchel One 8 Satchel One 9 Satchel One 10 Satchel One 11 Satchel One
14:10	7 Satchel One 8 TECHNOLOGY 9 ENGLISH 10 EPR 11 SCIENCE	7 DANCE/ DRAMA 8 ENGLISH 9 HISTORY 10 DESIGN TECHNOLOGY 11 SPANISH	7 MATHS 8 Satchel One 9 Satchel One 10 TEXTILES 11 ASDAN	7 MUSIC 8 Satchel One 9 Satchel One 10 COMP SCIENCE 11 ENGLISH	7 Satchel One 8 Satchel One 9 Satchel One 10 Satchel One 11 Satchel One

I would like to reiterate that when your child uses Microsoft Teams please note the following:

- Your child will need to access their academy email account to attend.
- The member of staff will explain ground rules at the start of each session.
- Students should have their camera turned off to commence the session.
- Students must mute their microphones to prevent acoustic problems.
- Students are not to record or take images of anything or make audio recordings.
- Staff will record the session for safeguarding purposes.
- If students do not abide by the rules or conduct themselves appropriately, the session will end, they will not be invited again and you will be informed.

### **Feedback**

Students can submit their work through Satchel One or by email using their academy email address. Staff email addresses are on the academy website. Please can students label their files with their names so that they are easier to keep track of. Staff receiving work from approximately 400 students a week in some cases and whilst some work is marked by a computer system much is not and little things such as labelling work can save valuable time. Feedback will be given by staff including the use of reward points within Satchel One.

### **Educare**

Students attending Educare provision on site will follow an amended timetable from next week which will allow them to attend all live Microsoft Teams sessions. To support that, they are welcome to bring suitable wired headphones with a normal 3.5mm jack or earpieces to listen to the sessions although we will have clean sets available if this is not possible.

### **Careers education**

Many activities involving careers education that would usually run within the academy at this time of year are moving to virtual experiences. We would like to offer all students and parents/carers the opportunity to attend events that can develop skills and education around your child's future. Many of these are run by large national organisations and are free to attend. Please look out for updates and links sent to students on Satchel One and posted on our Facebook page. If you have any specific requests please contact Mrs Reynolds by email ([jreynolds@looe.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:jreynolds@looe.cornwall.sch.uk)). More year group specific information for Key Stage 4 has been sent out.

### **Key Stage 4 Options**

Normally at this time of year we start to think about this process, however, with the lockdown we will be postponing Options Evening and making not those choices until later in the year. We will write to the families of all Year 9 students when our process for this year is due to start.

### **OfQual consultation - Exam results**

OfQual are currently running a national consultation about the awarding of grades for our Year 10 and 11 students this summer. Parents and carers are invited as important stakeholders to contribute to the consultation and I have provided the link should you be able to do so. Please make your voice heard as this will inform this year's process in determining final grades. <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8BYI4T/>

Yours faithfully



**Mr Scott Yalden**  
**Headteacher**