



# Seahaven Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Term 3 updates**

I hope that this end of week letter finds you being able to keep safe and well. We have had another rollercoaster few days in terms of setting up a new school provision model, but we have been absolutely delighted with the response from families and have seen a tremendous effort going into students' work both online and on-site. We don't know what the next few weeks will bring as the number of COVID-19 cases reported in the media each day continues to rise, but we are confident that we have a model of delivering our learning which will be sustainable for as long as we need it.

### **ICT support**

As you know, there is a national move to provide as much support as possible for students who do not have the resources they need. United Learning colleagues have been working behind the scenes for months to try to increase the number of laptops available for students in its schools, and I am delighted to say that this means we are now already delivering new Chromebooks to families who need them, after this has been highlighted as a national concern. If you have not let us know that you need an additional device, please contact the school office who will be able to take details from you.

We will also be contacting families next week to find out whether you need additional data in order for your children to participate in, and complete online learning. A number of phone companies are now taking part in a national scheme to support families in this position, so we hope to be able to support this initiative as soon as possible.

### **Free School Meals**

We have sent out £15 vouchers per child via text for all those families who are already on our lists for being in receipt of free school meals. This first voucher is to cover this last week. We are sorry it has taken a few days for these to arrive, but since we only knew we would not be reopening this term on Monday it has taken a few days for this to be organised. Further vouchers will be sent out each week. If you are not registered for free school meals but think your family may be eligible, please follow the link below to apply:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals/east-sussex>

### **Working online from home**

**(The Continuity of Learning section of our website for those learning at home is [here](#) )**

We have had a fantastic response from most students to our online learning provision this week. Thank you also to those parents who have taken to time to let us know how pleased they are with it. We will, as always, constantly be looking for ways to improve it and will communicate regularly with you to let you know what

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**Principal Sarah Pringle**

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we are doing. You should see that the number of 'live' lessons increases gradually ('live' lessons take on a variety of forms from voiced powerpoints, to Youtube presentations from staff and class sessions on Microsoft Teams). We need to make sure that there is plenty of variety in what we deliver to keep students engaged and cater for different styles of teaching and learning, so each timetabled day will involve a range of different styles of presentation.

Work for the day is accessed by students via **Satchel One (Show My Homework)**. Forgotten logins can be resolved by contacting the school office. There is also an app for parents and carers to install on phones which will ensure that you receive alerts about completion of work etc, so that you can keep up to date with what your child is doing.

### **Intervention groups**

We will be continuing with as much of our intervention and small group work as we can during the lockdown period. This will include remote classes with external teachers for some year 11 groups, Maths, Science and English 1:1, counselling and SEND interventions. Individual students will be contacted as groups start up again.

### **Online behaviours**

Naturally we expect the same high standards of behaviour from students online as in school. Where students do not behave as expected, parents/carers will be contacted to discuss a student's behaviour. If necessary, sanctions will be imposed to ensure that all other students can learn in a productive and comfortable atmosphere.

### **Provision on-site for Critical Worker/Vulnerable students (CWV) groups**

Students on-site in the CWV groups have also made a great start to their online learning. Please remind students to bring the following for the day:

- Full school uniform (and coat if it is very cold!)
- Mask (some staff may ask students to wear them to allow them to feel more comfortable in supporting this on – site provision)
- Usual school equipment: bag, pens, pencil case etc.
- Own snacks/ drinks/ packed lunch/ water bottle
- Headphones (not the iPhone type) if you have them
- Reading book

### **Attendance**

It is absolutely essential that students respond to the email they will receive each morning from their tutor who will be checking that they have access to everything they need for the day. This is also our 'safe and well check' which we use to monitor contact with students. It would be very helpful if you could remind them to do this shortly after 8am each day, which will then replicate their tutor time registration first thing in the morning.

If your child has a CWV place on-site, please let the office know if you no longer need it or if your child is ill due to COVID or otherwise, or needs to self-isolate as we are being asked to submit this data on a regular basis.

**Testing:**

You will be aware that schools had been asked to set up mass testing programmes for students returning to school in January. Whilst this is not going ahead for all students since the schools are largely closed, we will be offering weekly testing to staff and students who have places in the CWV groups on site. Staff tests have already been taking place this week and we will start student testing in the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> January for those in the CWV provision. **Students are not required to have a test to come into school**, but it can provide an additional level of confidence for those on site who would like it. Consent forms for parents/carers to sign have been sent home to those on the CWV list.

**Year 11 assessments:**

You will have seen that there have been further announcements this week about arrangements for exam year groups this summer. Clearly there is a great deal more to be decided as the government works with schools and colleges to find appropriate alternatives to exams. Work currently being completed by students at home is very likely to form a significant source of evidence for the final grades, so please don't let them tell you they don't need to work anymore... it is quite the opposite! It is extremely important that all year 11 students engage fully with all their online lessons and learning. Today has been an excellent start to the term.

We will arrange for a presentation for year 11 parents/carers to give updates around these issues and the new online parents consultation evening system next week.

And finally, have a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SP', is written in a cursive style.

Sarah Pringle  
Headteacher