

Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I would like to provide you with an update on the provision that we are offering our pupils during this period of national lockdown. As we begin our third week of online teaching and learning, we are enhancing our monitoring of pupil engagement during lessons. Each lesson, a register is completed, and we are constantly monitoring pupil engagement in lessons. If we notice a pupil not engaging during lessons (i.e., unresponsive to prompts or questions from their teacher), our Pastoral team will contact you to discuss what further steps we can put in place to support your child.

Pupil timetables will continue as they would if your child were in school - this includes Tutor time at the start and/or the end of the day. These sessions are *critical* in that they allow us the opportunity to share important messages with pupils and also allows tutors to conduct welfare checks to review how your child is managing the demands of online learning.

If for any reason your child is not able to attend the online learning, please could we ask that you contact the Attendance Manager (Mrs E. Silverthorne) at the academy as soon as possible. Attendance@astreaernulf.org

We understand that online learning does not allow for the same social interactions as a traditional classroom offers, but we encourage all staff to prepare learning activities which involve pupils interacting either speaking or writing their answer in the 'Teams chat' window. We have also begun to rollout the use of Microsoft Notebook which allows pupils to write extended pieces of writing that the teacher can view as the pupil writes.

This week online interventions for our SEN pupils will also commence. These sessions are co-ordinated by our SENCO (Deborah Chudasama) and supported by our team of Teaching Assistants. Information will be provided about when the sessions will take place for the SEN pupils.

For additional support using Microsoft Teams, please follow the link: <https://www.astreaernulf.org/how-to-guides/>

We realise that pupils not being able to attend school can have a significant impact on their mental health. With this in mind we have created a dedicated email address which will be checked by our mental health team on a regular basis - Wellbeing@astreaernulf.org – this has been designed for pupils who may need to share their thoughts, feelings or concerns during this time of uncertainty and receive helpful support/advice from a member of the team.

If you have not done so already, please download the **Astrea App** free of charge from the App Store and Google Play store. Once downloaded, please complete the information about your child. You will then have full access to your child's attendance, timetable, attainment, and regular updates from the academy.

Lastly, with the increase in our student's accessing their education through extended 'screen-time' I would encourage all parents/carers and families to try and balance this with exercise and/or physical/outdoor activity – where safe to do so and complying with all government guidelines. Students will still continue to have 2 breaks throughout the day (break & lunch) but if more are required please discuss this with your child's HOY. Remote-learning is a new method of delivering the curriculum for us all - and we are working hard to support students and their families as much as possible during this time.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the academy at Office@astreaernulf.org

Yours sincerely



Mr A Bissoo, Principal