



7 January 2021

RE: Welcome from the Deputy Headteacher – Pastoral Lead

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this finds you well and that you are all managing to adapt to the circumstances that we find ourselves in once again. I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself as I have been given the privilege to join Plymstock School as Deputy Headteacher, leading on the many pastoral aspects that contribute to a child's positive school experience. This is an area of school life that I am particularly passionate about, and firmly believe that the overall success of any individual starts with establishing strong positive relationships with students, parents/carers and the community as a whole. I am very excited about my new role and I look forward to having the opportunity to meet with you at some point in the future.

As you will be aware, education for our children and young people looks and feels very different at the moment. I recognise how difficult and challenging this is for not only the student but for you as parents/carers and as a school at the heart of the community, we will be doing everything we can to support where possible. At present and at least until after February half term, Plymstock School will be delivering their curriculum offer to all students via remote learning or on-site provision.

At present (and adhering to the current government guidance), places are only available to children of critical workers and vulnerable children (those with an allocated Social Worker who have an EHCP). If you would like to request an on-site place for your child or have any queries, please contact onsite@plymstockschool.org.uk. A member of staff will respond directly to your request within 48 hours. We will continue to review any updates that are issued by the DfE or Children and Young People's Services and communicate this where appropriate.

I would like to provide some further guidance and clarity regarding on-site provision. Many children and young people may have attended EduCare during the first lockdown in March 2020, this provision focused on a more learning and enrichment experience. However, due to the focus on delivering remote learning, including live learning and ensuring that COVID 19 systems of control are followed to mitigate the risk to both the school and wider community, this type of provision is not possible.

Children and young people who attend on-site provision are expected to follow their personalised timetables through the remote learning platforms, mainly Satchel One. They are supported by a team of staff, which includes teachers, pastoral and support staff. I must stress that staffing for on-site provision is on a rota basis and therefore, we are only able to support the students completing their work rather than students being able to access face to face teaching.

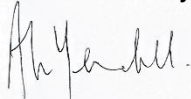
The pastoral team and I are fully aware of the potential impact on children and young people by not being in school. The loss of routines, friendships, interactions, emotional support, advice and guidance are all important factors in a young person's academic, social and personal development. I wanted to reassure you that the school remains fully committed to supporting all children, young people and families during these very difficult times and if you have any concerns regarding your child's welfare or safety, I strongly encourage you to contact their Head of Year or Assistant Head of Year in the first instance.

To further support, as of Monday 11 January 2021, students in all year groups (7-13) will be expected to attend a weekly assembly (Wednesday) and attend two tutor lessons per week (Tuesday and Thursday). These will be delivered via MS Teams and will start at 8.45am and finish just before 9.00am. This will enable your child's tutor and head of year to communicate key messages and share important information that will support your child and yourselves throughout the time that you are not able to attend school in the normal circumstances that we would like to.

I fully appreciate that we are in difficult times and I have no doubt that our circumstances will continue to change and present us with new challenges. However, I want to once again reassure you that we will continue to do everything that we can as a school community to provide the care, support, advice and encouragement to get through this together.

Lastly, I would like to thank the warm welcome I have received at Plymstock School from students, staff, parents/carers and members of the community. I am very much looking forward to helping the school continue on its journey to being the very best.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Yendell

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER - Pastoral

