

October 9<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## Coronavirus

Without wishing to tempt fate, we have been very fortunate so far this term compared to many schools. We have only had to deal with one positive case among the student population and none among the staff. The number of students having to self-isolate because of family situations has also fallen significantly. However as the virus is clearly on the rise throughout the country we always have to be prepared and ready to deal with whatever may happen.

In the event that your son or daughter tests positive and you find out about this in the evening or at the weekend, when there is no one in school to answer the phone, I would be grateful if you could email the details to [Covid-Reporting@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:Covid-Reporting@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk). We can then make any necessary decisions and take appropriate action before the next day.

## Synergy – a new school system

During the last academic year we planned to move to a new school system of recording attendance, behaviour, homework and for communicating with you as parents. This system is called Synergy and was due to be in use from September. Due to lockdown this had to be delayed but we are now in a situation to begin the roll out of this new system from after half term. Staff have had their training and we will explain the system to students over the next two weeks.

With regard to parents and carers then initially you will receive an email from the system and when you click the link it will inform you of an incident, attendance issue or notification from school. Later in November we will then send you a login code for the Synergy Parent Portal (one for each parent) and using that you will have easy access to the Synergy system and be able to see up to date information on your son/daughter's behaviour, attendance, rewards, detentions etc as well as historic information. Letters from school will be sent via this system and it will also replace emails between staff and parents in December. Later on the system will also replace Show My Homework.

Roll out for Parent Portal log ins

Week beginning November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Parents/Carers of Year 7
Week beginning November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parents/Carers of Years 8 & 9
Week beginning November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Parents/Carers of years 10 & 11

We have done a lot of research into this system and its use in other schools and believe it will both improve the 'live' knowledge of how your son/daughter is getting on in school and benefit staff workload.

At the heart of the system is a new method of recording attendance in lessons based on behaviour for learning and by logging into the parent portal you will be able to see your child's daily pattern. All students will start every lesson on a grade 4 ('focussed' - expected behaviour and attitude) but this could be changed depending on behaviour and attitude displayed during the lesson according to the table below:

5	Outstanding
4	Focussed
3	Passive
2	Reluctant to learn
1	Disruptive – needed to be removed from the lesson

### Year 11

As I said in the letter last week, Year 11 begin mock exams on November 16<sup>th</sup> in the core subjects. It is really important that they revise thoroughly, prepare well and take the exams seriously and that should have already begun. We do not yet know what the situation will be next summer regarding exams but we have seen this week the Scottish Government cancel next Summer's GCSE equivalents and revert to Centre Assessment. If that was to happen in England we will need all the evidence possible to justify grades. However mocks are also important for giving us an accurate picture of a student's current knowledge and skills and for then informing subsequent teaching and intervention.

With best wishes

Andrew Waller

Headteacher