

## **COVID-19 Update, Mr Reynolds, Executive Principal, Friday 15th January 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that this message finds you and your loved ones well at the end of the second week of term. Yet again, we have been so pleased with the positive and industrious approach that our students have shown, and very much appreciate the support that you have given them and us to make the Remote Learning programme a success.

Following a week full of announcements last week (4 – 8 January), this week has been comparatively quiet. We are still waiting for Ofqual to launch its consultation on the replacements for the summer examinations. Several newspapers have picked up on a possible mini exam series – in essence we don't know yet.

We began rolling out our Covid testing programme this week in line with government guidelines – your child may have been one of those tested? Having taken the test myself this week, I know it is not a particularly pleasant experience but the students have coped with it, as they always do, with their usual good humour and stoicism. If you've not managed to complete the consent form for your child, we would encourage you to do so [here](#), even if your child is not attending currently.

You may have seen the government has announced that from next week families who are entitled to FSM vouchers will start to receive them via their child's school. To ensure you do not experience a gap in entitlement we will continue to provide a food hamper next week which can be collected from Tuesday 10.00am – 2.00pm at main reception. You should then begin to receive your vouchers during next week.

### **Attendance at school during the national lockdown**

On Thursday 7 January the DfE published [guidance for schools in England](#) on restricting attendance at school during the national lockdown.

Primary, secondary, alternative provision and special schools will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of [critical workers](#) only. All other students should not attend and should learn remotely until February half-term. Students who are self-isolating should not attend school. Clinically extremely vulnerable students are also advised not to attend school.

If you have any questions around this guidance please do get in touch with your child's Year Manager in the first instance.

### **Consett Academy website**

I'm delighted to say that we are ready to launch our re-designed and updated website. You will find the website has a more modern feel and is much more user friendly. All the information you require is logically set out to make it easy to find, whether you are a prospective parent/carer or an existing one. Please look out for this when we go live next week. Do please take a look around and let us know what you think?

Best wishes for the weekend.

Kevin Reynolds, Executive Principal