

10 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Praising Stars 3 Reports**

Your child will this week receive their Praising Stars 3 report via their Academy Gmail account. With the report is a generic explanation of what the report means. As teaching and learning is currently being accessed via the remote platform 'Google Classroom', we have made some adjustments to your child's report as the pandemic has impacted on some aspects of our usual assessment processes. In addition, we have adjusted the criteria for our effort grades to reflect these teaching methods; these grades are applicable to students who are learning from home or attending our Key Worker & Vulnerable Student Provision. Full details of this are in the email sent to your child.

Reports in Y7-9 focus purely on effort grades and staff will return to formalised assessments when students return to classroom-based learning. Reports in Y10-11 have predictions included in the report as students have continued to study GCSE or equivalent qualifications throughout remote learning.

Students will not have received an effort grade for Tutor Time or Core PE due to how we are currently delivering these remotely.

### **Virtual Parent/Carer Meeting**

Just a reminder that next half term, there will be a parent/carers meeting offered. This will be held as a virtual meeting and will last 5 minutes for the Tutor meeting in Years 7 and 8 and 5 minutes per subject teacher appointment in Years 9 to 11. This will be an opportunity for us to continue to work closely with yourselves to best support all students with remote learning and as we begin to see students return to face to face teaching.

A letter and user guide are available on our website. A reminder of dates for these meetings are below:



**Virtual Parents Evening - Dates for your Diary**

Tuesdays - 3:30pm to 6:30pm

- ★ **Y7 & Y8** with your Child's Tutor  
23rd February 2021
- ★ **Y9 & Y10** with Subject Teachers  
9th March 2021
- ★ **Y11** with Subject Teachers  
23rd March 2021

Look out for a text/email explaining how to book your appointment time.

### **Guardian Summaries**

We often receive queries from parents and carers about how they can further support their child. One method is by signing up to Guardian Summaries. A detailed support area for this is here <https://classroom.freeston.outwood.com/home>. Guardian Summaries will allow you to see what work your child has been assigned and see whether they have completed this.

### **Xpressions App**

Every text message that we send out is a cost to the academy. We would love for every parent and carer to instead sign up to Xpressions - an app where we can update you for free instead of sending a costly text. Currently, 60% of our parents and carers are using this. We would really love for this to be 100% - therefore, saving lots of money we can then direct to what children need. For this to work, please ensure we have your current mobile number and email address. Registration is then really easy, full details are here: <https://parents.groupcall.com/setup/account-registration/> Thank you for helping us to save money and remain in contact with you as required.

### **Facebook**

Following feedback from the parent and carer survey in January we will be launching a Facebook page for the academy, more details to come on this after half term.

### **Updates**

Please remember to read the weekly blog on the website for a summary of the week's successes and main updates. When we have further details regarding students returning to the academy we will of course contact you again.

I wish you all a restful and safe half term.

Yours faithfully



Lisa Allott  
Principal

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