



8<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

## END OF SPRING TERM ONE

As we draw this half term to a close, we look forward to a well-earned rest for both staff and students who have been working hard to ensure that our Virtual School is working as smoothly as possible, with the students submitting their work and staff marking it and providing feedback just as they would if we were in the normal classroom. It is an ever evolving situation and I hope that post half term, we will receive some news from the Government of an expected date of return to some normality for schools.

### Parent Forums

You will be aware that these are now in place on a weekly basis and provides you with an opportunity to raise any queries you may have to either their Head of Year (Fridays 8.35am) or myself via Microsoft Teams (Fridays 10am). Details on how to access these meetings have been emailed out to you, the same links are used every week. These have been very positive and encouraging forums and enable us to address your concerns swiftly, so please do join us.

### Student Engagement/On-site Provision

Key workers and vulnerable students are welcome on site to participate in our provision, please email [enquiries@cardinalpole.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cardinalpole.co.uk) with the details of both you and your child, and the days you wish to secure a place.

The parents/carers of those students who are failing to engage with our virtual school will continue to be contacted by their Heads of Year and will also be asked to attend our on-site provision in order to ensure that they do not fall further behind with their education.

Some of our Year 11 students have been in school this week to ensure that they complete their coursework which, as you are aware, will be used to assess their final grades in the Summer.

Please note that if your child is attending our on-site provision, they will be required to carry out a weekly Covid Lateral Flow Test.

### Remote Learning/Online Meetings and IT Support

Live lessons have now also started for Year 9, alongside Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form which parents have reported are working well. We will review extending this out to Years 7 & 8 shortly.

We have also had very successful Year 8 and 10 Virtual Parents' Evenings, as well as a Year 8 Options Evening and Hustings events this term. It is a different way of working but hope that you still found these meetings useful and informative. However, please note that the recording of any online lessons or meetings without consent is strictly prohibited. Any students or parents engaging in such activity will have their access to the school system blocked and students will be directed to attend our onsite provision. Our Remote Learning Policy is available on the school's website to view, should you have any queries relating to this matter.

If your child has any problems logging on to our Virtual School, you can access IT support by attending our on-site support session every Monday between 10.30am-11.30am or an online remote session every Tuesday via Microsoft Teams from 9.30am-10.30am. Alternatively, you can contact them by telephone on extension 2143 or via email at [smh@cardinalpole.co.uk](mailto:smh@cardinalpole.co.uk)

### Student/Staff Testing

You will be aware that we are now carrying out twice weekly testing for staff and weekly testing for students at the school as per Government guidelines. Parents/carers will be written to with the test results and all positive cases will be asked to self-isolate for the recommended 10 day period from the date of the test. Those in close contact will also be asked to self-isolate.

Vacancies

Cardinal Pole Catholic School has a vacancy for a Business Studies teacher, if you know of someone who teaches Business, please see our website for further details.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Heffernan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Ms J Heffernan  
**HEADTEACHER**