



NEWSLETTER • AUTUMN TERM ISSUE 19 • 23RD OCTOBER 2020

Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October	Half Term
Tuesday 3 rd November	Enrichment Day: British Values

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your continued support this term. Nobody has an easy job currently and I would like to pass on my gratitude for your continued understanding and cooperation. I must also congratulate and thank our students for the fantastic start that they have made to the academic year under the strangest of circumstances. I have been so impressed with how they have seamlessly adapted to the new systems and protocols in place. The atmosphere as I walk around school and the learning that is taking place is a pleasure to witness. Thank you for your part in enabling that to happen; I am delighted to say it has been a very positive half term.

As the current Covid-19 alert level has been raised, the restrictions on school operation are likely to be with us for some time. We are incredibly pleased that the measures we have put in place have resulted in all of our staff and students remaining healthy at this time. We will, however, put a variety of measures in place after half term to plan for the event of a local lockdown, or partial closure, should we have to do so. This includes our plans for remote learning, should further restrictions around Covid-19 require us to move to this form of education, as well as alterations to bubbles and grouping in some instances. This is to allow us to target teaching more effectively and to give greater access to our specialist facilities.

The main aim in our provision is to be as consistent as possible, and to ensure that our offer matches the planned curriculum as far as is practically possible. In light of this, our plan is to use formats for delivery which our students will already be familiar with for sharing work with them - Class Charts for the posting of classwork and, in many areas, Google Classroom will also supplement this as a means for students to receive and submit their work.

For the vast majority of learners, this will be their curriculum offer:

- They will follow their normal curriculum timetable.
- Staff will post work for their five lessons that day on **Class Charts** by 8.30am each morning. This will contain the instructions, resources and any links to Google Classroom that are required.
- Students should work through those tasks for that day, spending **only one hour** on each lesson, and no more.
- For Core subjects (English, Maths and Science) students will be asked to submit one piece of work for feedback per week. For all other subjects, this will be one piece per fortnight.

For some learners we appreciate that the above offer may need to be adjusted. Should we move into a phase where we are required to provide Remote Learning, and you feel your child is struggling to manage the workload, we ask that in the first instance you contact your child's Pastoral Team so that amendments to their offer can be made.

In the meantime, please ensure that your son/daughter has access to their Class Charts log-in and that your parent account is activated. Should you require assistance, please email itsupport@paxmanacademy.school and we will endeavour to respond as soon as we can.

Now that students have been with us for eight weeks, we have carried out a number of assessments to address gaps in learning. As a result, we have made some changes to teaching groups in years 7 and 8. This means that all students will receive new timetables when they return to school on 2nd November.

Finally, please ensure that you check our uniform list prior to purchasing any new uniform over half term. Students will still be required to come to school in PE kit on days that they have PE. On other days, they are expected to be in full school uniform.

I would like to thank our teaching and support staff whose hard work, optimism and positivity mean that Paxman Academy is a very happy place to work and learn for staff and students. May I also take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and restful half term.

Mrs CA Moffat
Headteacher

Lunchtime Football Club

The PE Department are offering a Football Club at lunchtimes from 1.30pm:

Year 7: Monday and Tuesday
Year 8: Thursday and Friday

Students will already be in their PE kits but are required to bring football boots to school if they wish to participate, as they will be playing on a grass pitch. Students will focus on skills in a socially distanced setting.

Mr Samjawn
Head of PE

Half Term Reading

In order to continue to read and enjoy the novels currently being studied in English, all students have been asked to take their reading books home with them over half term. Year 7 students are reading *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* and Year 8 are reading *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*.

Students have been set reading homework and should ensure that this has been completed when they return to school. They should also bring their book back into school for their first English lesson after half term and make sure that it remains in good condition.

Mrs Gooder
Head of English



Covid-19 During Half Term

If your child develops COVID symptoms over half term from Monday 26th October onwards, the school will not need to undertake contact tracing since the two-day window will have closed. If, however, symptoms occur on Saturday 24th or Sunday 25th October, please make us aware by emailing admin@paxmanacademy.org.uk. The school will then carry out its process of contact tracing.

If upon testing your child receives a positive test result during half term, please communicate this with us as soon as possible using the same admin email address. In addition, please make us aware if your child is having to self-isolate as a result of being in close contact with someone displaying symptoms.

Can we please take this opportunity to remind you that Essex is currently under Level 2 restrictions and therefore the mixing of households inside is not currently allowed and social distancing between households when outside is required.

We wish everyone a safe and restful break.

Mr Morgan
Assistant Headteacher