



Friday 8th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I'm writing to you following my first week leading The Castle Rock School. Firstly, let me thank those of you who have contacted me with kind comments and to wish me well. This is very much appreciated, and I am looking forward to working with your children, our staff and you. It's been lovely to meet the small number of children who are in school, and I know we are all looking forward to being able to run our school normally again as soon as it becomes possible.

It has obviously been a difficult week for all of us as we have entered into another period of lockdown. I know many of you have had to make rapid changes at home to look after your children and I also know that making sure you can access the work that we are setting for them can be difficult. I want to explain what we have done and how this will change in the next week.

Students in Key Stage 4 and in our Sixth Form are already using a system called Teams to access their work, I've checked with the students in school that this is working and that they can access it. Our teachers are ensuring that lessons are stored there and I know they are working hard to ensure that the lessons are the best we can make them at short notice. We've invested in a system called GCSEPod which provides excellent short videos and assessments, so students in Years 10 and 11 will always be able to use these for revision, quizzes and to explore new material.

We will shortly be using Teams with younger students in Years 7, 8 and 9 too. We have not been able to do so this week because of a technical issue with our system so we have unfortunately had to set more general work through the web site. We should be able to start using this next week and we will be putting instructions in the home learning section of our website today explaining how to do this.

We will also be introducing a live tutor registration session via Teams where your child's form tutor will check in with the group in the morning to make sure everyone is able to access their work and to keep a sense of continuity going during lockdown. We need to ensure there are very clear rules about this to ensure everyone is safe. We will put these rules on our website and it will be essential that you and your child adheres to them. We aim to run the first of these sessions on Wednesday 13 January and we will keep you updated to confirm this.

All of this depends on your child having access to a laptop, tablet, smartphone, games console or smart TV with an internet connection. I am acutely aware that this can be very difficult for some families, particularly where there is more than one child needing access with parents also working at home. If you are not able to get your child on line it is important that you contact us to let us know and we will do everything we can to help.

I know this is a very difficult time for all of us. Staff at The Castle Rock School have worked very hard to put systems in place and, like all other schools, will be learning from their experience and improving all the time. Please watch out for our communications as we continue to do our very best for our students.

With best wishes

D Baldwin

Head of School
The Castle Rock School

☎ 01530 834368 @ office@castlerocksch.uk 🌐 www.castlerocksch.uk 🐦 @castlerocksch

The Castle Rock School, Meadow Lane, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 4BR

Head of School - Mr D Baldwin

Deputy Headteachers – Mr M Gamble, Mr M Rowbottom and Mrs E Booth

CEO Apollo Partnership Trust and Executive Secondary Headteacher - Mrs J Patrick

Registered Company: The Castle Rock School – Company Registration No. 08114513

Registered Office: Meadow Lane, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 4BR

