

5th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Student Engagement Report

Last Friday, we sent out the first copy of our student engagement report. As you will have seen from the letter that accompanied this report, the purpose was to inform you as parents/carers of a summary of engagement for each subject, and to ensure that we could offer support where any concerns were apparent. We have been pleased that the tracker has enabled us to help students with any technical issues as well as supporting some parents/carers with helping children to be more motivated in their learning. This week, teachers have reported increased levels of engagement across the school and I hope that you will see that reflected in your child's report that will be sent to you later today.

We are sending this report on a Friday as some parents/carers will want to discuss this with their children over the weekend, either to celebrate the success or to help and support their children with any areas that need improvement. It is your decision whether to review this information on a Friday, or whether to wait until the 'working week' begins on Monday. You know your children the best and it is ultimately your decision as to how you share this information with them.

We are requesting that parents/carers do not e-mail staff over the weekend. We do ask staff to switch off from work over the weekend, but many will still choose to be using that time to create resources and to communicate with colleagues. Teachers at Corby Technical School are working very hard to provide a high-quality education for students at home and those working in-school. We do appreciate how challenging remote learning is for parents and many of our staff are parents too. We all are experiencing the challenges of lockdown and the impact that is having on our families, and us as individuals. If you do have a concern to communicate to the school, we are keen to hear from you, but please convey that concern in a courteous manner with due regard for the effect that this will have on the person receiving the e-mail.

Thank you to those parents who have responded to our survey and sent us e-mails with some constructive feedback on how we can improve. As a result of your feedback and suggestions from our staff, we would like to update you on some changes:

- We have altered some of the wording on the reports, there remain 5 categories to identify varying levels of engagement.
- We are keen to ensure that students have dedicated time for screen-free exercise time (outside if it is safe to do so) as they would have in school. Therefore, the PE team will be setting ideas for exercise-based tasks and sharing student successes, but the element of flexibility built into this will allow for students to work in a way that suits their needs. As a result, it is not appropriate to report on PE in the same way, so Core PE will no longer be included on the tracker.

Our parent/carers survey closes today and we will update you further in our next communication once we have reviewed all of the responses.

Finally, I wanted to remind you that a wealth of information has been made available to parents via our school website since the start of this lockdown. We have added more details as the lockdown has progressed and as we

have modified our approach. Every change has been communicated to students as part of our weekly assembly programme and this information has been included in correspondence to parents/carers. We understand that there is often a great deal of information to take on board, as such, here is a brief list of some links to key aspects of information that you may feel are useful to you:

- [An overview of the remote learning provision and FAQs](#)
- [Videos explaining the approach to home learning for each year group](#)
- [Technical support videos for MS Teams and other platforms we use](#)
- [More detail about our Engagement report](#)
- [Tutor and Subject teacher e-mail addresses](#)

As always, thank you for your continued support. Times are really hard and if you need some cheering up, please review our CTS Snapshot today and have look at what we have been sharing on Twitter. I wish you and your family all the best and I am hoping that it won't be too much longer before we welcome our students back into school – fingers crossed!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Reynolds', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs A Reynolds
Principal