



Dear Parents/Carers,

“Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today.” Thich Nhat Hanh

We find ourselves in another national lockdown, where in line with government guidance, all year groups have moved to remote learning until at least February half term. I am hugely grateful to our staff who are working incredibly hard to support key worker children and set work remotely.

The government announced on Monday night that exams for 2021 will be replaced with another system. We do not have further information at this moment in time. However, we do know that it is important that all students continue to work hard so that they have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in the next stage of their life, whether that be education or employment.

Below are a list of questions and answers that should give you the information you need to know about our remote learning provision.

Does my child need to follow a timetable?

All students should be up and ready to start the tutor time activities at 08:45 (Starting 11th January). They should then follow their normal timetable which can be found in their Google Calendar.

What happens if my child misses a lesson?

The work will stay available on Google Classroom so they can catch up at any time. Rather than engaging in the live interaction, they will need to email any questions to their teacher and they will reply within 24 hours (during school days).

Where and when will the work be set?

All teachers will be uploading work to Google Classroom by 9am the day they would normally teach a class.

What work will my child be set?

We teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. The work will consist of a range of activities, including; pre-recorded lessons, written activities, reading, quizzes and consolidation work. Students should expect to receive 4-5 hours of work per day.

We also have subscriptions to a number of commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or area, including video clips or sequences e.g. Everlearner for PE, Educake (English, Science, History and Geography) and Dr Frost in Maths. Your child should have login details to these. If they do not, they should contact their subject teacher.

Headteacher: Mr S Palmer

Will my child receive 'live' lessons?

Our teachers will be uploading pre-recorded videos as part of their delivery of the curriculum. However, they will have live interaction with their teachers. This means that they will be available in the Google Classroom and by email to answer any questions at the time of the lesson. Google Classroom also has the function to enable students to collaborate on a piece of work and join in any discussions. They will check that they are engaging in the lesson and make contact with parents if they have any concerns.

If your child is in year 12 or 13, they will be offered some live lessons as part of their timetable.

What feedback will my child receive?

Your child will get regular feedback, as they would have done if in school, this may be in the form of whole class or individual feedback. It will also include self-marking quizzes. Each department has individualised their approach to suit their subject. Students will still receive achievement points for excellent work and effort.

My child is in Y11/13, are things any different for them?

It is vital that they continue with their studies as the curriculum is designed to prepare students for the next stage of their life. In addition, we do not have full details of what the end process will look like so students should continue with work as if they had terminal examinations.

When should my child complete the work and what is the expectation of them?

We expect our students to access and complete the work at the time of their normal timetabled lesson, where possible. They should submit any work requested. If they do not understand the work/require further help, they should email the teacher to inform them.

What can parents do to support their child?

Parents should help their child to find a suitable workplace and encourage and support them to complete all work. If you have any concerns, you should contact the child's tutor/head of year. If we have any concern about students engaging with and completing the work, we will also contact you.

What should I do if my child doesn't have access to the internet or an electronic device to access the work set?

Please contact your child's head of year and let them know. We have some data sim cards and can apply for free routers and additional data for certain mobile companies. In addition, we have a limited number of devices we loan families during a period of remote learning. We are awaiting a small number of additional devices from the DfE. We can also arrange to get materials printed for students.

What should my child do if they are struggling?

All of our staff are there to support our students as they would do in school. Your child can contact their tutor, head of year and subject teachers by email.

Will my child still have access to assemblies and the tutor programme?

They will have access to weekly assemblies and daily tutor activities. There are Google Classrooms for every year group and the tutor time programme and assemblies are shared here. The timetable of activities can also be found in this Classroom.

What will happen if my child doesn't engage with the work or complete what is expected of them?

Subject teachers will make contact first should there be any concerns in terms of engaging with the work or not completing sufficient work. If these are across a range of subjects, the pastoral team will also make contact with yourselves to help identify and remove any barriers to learning.

Will my child still receive achievement points?

Students will still receive achievement points for excellent work and effort. We are looking at how we can reward students beyond achievement points.

Will my child's tutor be in contact?

Your child will receive regular emails from their tutor and year team. In addition, someone from the school will make telephone contact to check how they are getting on with the work.

What can my child do to consolidate their learning in lessons?

There are resources on the website under consolidation in the student section. We expect students to spend time consolidating the work set during lessons.

What do I do if my child is unwell and is unable to complete the work?

If your child is unwell and unable to complete any work, you should contact their head of year so that they can let their teachers know.

Finally, I will leave you with a quote by Charlie Mackesy.

'What's the best thing you have learned about storms?'. 'That they end' said the horse.

Please take care of yourselves and your families and do not hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way.

Best wishes



M Norman
Deputy Headteacher