
Home Learning – Managing expectations

Some parents have contacted us expressing concern about the amount of work being set. I wanted to take a moment to reassure parents and students about our expectations of work completion during these unprecedented times.

Above all else, we need to remember that we are in week two of a system shutdown... and our students, your children, are probably still coming to terms with the fact that they will not be able to spend time with their friends, or continue 'every-day-life' as they have come to know it, for the foreseeable future. The 'novelty' of 'no early get-ups' has ended and they may not show it, but they are probably unnerved by the sudden reality of the global health crisis we find ourselves in. It is a really difficult time for everyone, and our role is to try and 'smooth' the path as best we can.

Students will no doubt be anxious to keep up with their studies; and this is important to ensure they retain all the knowledge their hard work has gained them so far. As such, teachers will continue to set home learning for students to engage with; to keep their learning alive and their minds active. There will be **no new topics being covered**. We believe in the importance of knowledge being transferred to long term memory, and therefore all the work we are setting is to review, revise and embed the learning that has already taken place in school with topics we have already taught.

However, we believe strongly in the importance of finding a balance between work and play. We do not expect students to sit at a laptop all day and complete schoolwork; indeed, we would wholly discourage attempts to replicate the school environment or daily routine at home. The best thing we could do educationally as parents is to encourage our children to find appropriate balance between their studies and non-curricular, but equally important, educational activities. For example, if the morning is spent on school work, why not encourage them to spend the afternoon engaging in a broad range of activities which may include physical activity, creativity, reading, cooking, gardening, learning to wash a car or even just spend time playing with younger brothers or sisters?

Teachers will continue to provide feedback for students on key pieces of work set and completed, but nobody will be judging anybody on whether they are sat working relentlessly all day or not. Whatever happens, we will make sure that your child has the tools they need to succeed in their future studies when they return to school. For now, focus on being a family, enjoy what you can and be reassured that we will pick up any 'lost' learning when school re-opens.

Very best wishes,

Ms Britton

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