

20th January 2021



Dear families,

Remote learning update: 18.01.21

Firstly, I would like to thank all parents and carers for everything they are doing in supporting their children with their learning at home. We are very aware of just how challenging home schooling can be and although the government has set expectations we need to meet, we are keen to support each individual family through this difficult time. Please remember you are more than welcome to contact us via email or telephone at any time; we are always available to support you and your child's learning.

We are confident that the routines we have in place, predominantly through Google classroom, are working well and enabling teachers to provide purposeful feedback to students; we will continue to develop and broaden the modes and methods of remote teaching and learning to make sure our students continue to receive high quality provision. However, we completely understand that at times remote learning routines can become challenging, especially as parents try to juggle their own work commitments with supporting their child in their remote learning studies. Therefore, we hope the following suggestions might help:

- Try to encourage your child to stick to their normal school timetable when learning from home. This helps students get into a routine and can be found in their planners.
- Regularly check the 'live learning schedule' so you know when your child's live learning sessions are occurring.
- Students receive 5 lessons of learning each day. Reassure your child that they should spend a maximum of one hour on each subject per day, but if they have not managed to complete all of the work set within that hour, they should not be disheartened; your child is not going to be in trouble for not completing everything, we just expect them to have tried their very best.
- If the internet goes down and you are unable to attend a live lesson or complete learning please don't panic. We understand that the National internet infrastructure is under great pressure and your child will not be in trouble if this happens. You may like to suggest that they use this time to read for pleasure instead. This could be a fiction book or perhaps a magazine or newspaper. We know how important reading is to a child's development and this is an excellent use of time.
- Request to be set up as a 'Guardian' on your child's Google classrooms so you can monitor your child's engagement in their learning.



- If your child is struggling with a particular subject or topic, encourage them to contact their teacher via Google classroom for assistance. We are here and keen to help.
- If learning isn't going well, encourage your child to take a short break. Try an exercise activity, short walk or even just having a few minutes to think or talk through their frustrations.
- If you are struggling with sharing devices, or your existing device is not suitable for home learning, please contact us to see if we can help provide you with additional devices.

As we come to the end of our second week of remote learning, your feedback has made it clear that the changes we have made to set lessons on a daily basis have made learning from home easier to follow for your child. You've also told us how much the children have enjoyed our live lessons over this past week. As a result, we will continue to post learning on a daily basis, continue to provide live English, Maths and Science lessons for all students and we will now be extending live lessons for the week ahead to include all subjects for students in Years 10 and 11. All students in every year group will also receive an invitation to attend a live PSHCEE lesson this Tuesday, and fortnightly thereafter, with their form tutor. We really do feel this is an incredibly important part of our young people's personal and social education; especially in our current climate. You can find out when your child's live lessons are scheduled from tomorrow by looking at the 'live lesson schedule' posted to parent hub and on the website or by looking at their Google classroom noticeboards. Please keep in mind if you have not given your child permission to participate in live sessions it is your responsibility to ensure they do not attend.

As students become more confident with the live mode of lesson delivery, and in line with your feedback, it is highly likely we will extend the number of live sessions we deliver as we progress through the term. It has been very reassuring for staff to hear the positive responses to the work we are setting and the live lessons over the last week; please may I thank you for your very many kind words and supportive comments as we've moved into our new way of working and remind you that you are not alone and we are here to support you.

With warmest wishes.

Yours sincerely



Ms Britton
Deputy Head teacher