

Our Ref: DLA/JCP.114

29 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Remote Learning update – ‘Live’ lessons and pupil survey

Firstly, my thanks to parents who continue to support remote learning from home. We do appreciate how difficult this can be. Secondly to those whose invaluable feedback is constantly supporting our ability to update our remote delivery and online systems, my gratitude. The ‘tripod’ remains crucial to this success. Recent research from the EEF (Educational Endowment Foundation) highlights teaching quality is more important than how lessons are delivered and that different approaches to remote learning suit different types of content and pupils. Our key message to staff remains constant; ‘Quality over quantity.’ Students need a good remote diet, whether this be ‘live’ Teams lessons, pre-recorded Streams or independent work set offline.

Live Lessons

Due to the successful trial of ‘live’ lessons and the recent announcement of the extension of remote learning by the government we are going to continue these. However, to make the process even smoother I would like to direct you to some key information.

To help families be able to plan for ‘live’ lessons the teaching staff have agreed that they will schedule live lessons for the upcoming week by Friday. This will come into immediate effect and staff are preparing to schedule all lessons week commencing 1st February by the 29th January. **To see these live lessons pupils will need to log into their Office 365 accounts and look at their Microsoft Teams/Outlook calendar.**

It is also recommended that pupils download the Microsoft Teams app onto their devices. The following link can be used: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-teams/download-app>

Along with ‘Show my Homework’ this is something they should check daily. We feel this will give families sufficient time to prepare including the need to share out devices amongst the family. Again we appreciate your patience while the whole school gets to grips with a new system. If staff have to add or remove a ‘live’ session for whatever reason we have asked they communicate this with home at the earliest point possible.

Scheduling and labeling of work

I remind parents that 'live' lessons should always fall within the pupil's normal timetable and therefore clashes will be avoided. If a pupil misses a lesson they can still access a recording of it via their Teams account. I do appreciate however that as the school transitioned from setting work at the start of the week to a daily system there were some issues of overlapping. We apologise for any inconvenience or stress this has caused. We are now more confident this should not occur any more. If any anomalies appear, simply follow your son/daughter's normal timetable. We have also asked staff to remain consistent in labelling work simply by using the date, the period and subject it is sent from.

Feedback and engagement

We understand how important feedback is to any pupils learning. Staff have been encouraged to feedback in a variety of ways including the 'live' session, via SMHW or e-mail. A full list of teachers emails can be found on the school webpage under 'Remote Learning' if you would like to make personal contact with them. We also intend to provide all parents with a very simple regular report to give you an indication as to how well your child is engaging with their remote learning. We hope that you will find this useful and once you have received it. If you have any concerns then please get in touch with your child's Head of Year, who will be able to help you.

Remote Survey

Now that we are into our 4th week of remote learning we feel this to be a great opportunity to get personal feedback from each and every pupil. I have already sent a link directly to each student's school e-mail account or conversely you can click the following link attached to this letter. If your child uses the follow link they will need to use their school login details to access the survey. We really value their feedback and support. In the meantime, please stay safe and look after yourselves. The school is always on hand to answer any questions you may have.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ul-3XKyde0aQbnzQmrXAulG7jFFeRxFsbA-cpJTaoRURUdGU0MwVk1HTUUzTklaWEc4VTBCQUQ1Qy4u>

Kind regards



Mr D Lee-Allan
Headteacher