

4th January 2021

Dear Pupils,

Happy New Year and welcome back. Hopefully, you have had a chance to read through Mr Lavery's email carefully: if you haven't done so already, please read it now before reading the rest of this one.

We have quite a bit of experience delivering home learning now, so you should be able to be hit the ground running on Wednesday and get into the swing of things very quickly. Having listened to feedback from pupils, parents and teachers following our home learning programme last year, we've made a few minor changes to how we schedule lessons and assignments. This should make your experience even better, and give you a much steadier, more even pattern of school work through the week.

Home learning (lessons and assignments) will take place for all year groups from Wednesday this week, including Saturday morning. It will continue for all except Years 11 and Upper Sixth next week, when the latter two year groups return to school to do their mock exams.

As ever, organise a place to work at home (not your bed!) and be ready to attend registration with your tutor from 8.30am each day, sensibly dressed and ready for school. A plan for your live lessons is attached to this email. You should expect:

- Two or three live lessons per day during a time slot that you would normally have lessons in school.
- An assignment for each subject set on the day you have your lesson. The assignments are an important part of your educational experience, and you should devote the right amount of time to completing these, which is as follows:
 - Y7/8/9 : 1 hour
 - Y10/11: 1.5 hours
 - Sixth Form: 2 hours (per teacher)
- You will be given up to a week, and at least 72 hours, to complete each assignment (set on Teams).
- Your live lessons will appear as appointments in your Teams calendar. Take some time now to plan which days these will fall on by consulting the schedule in the document attached to this email. For Y7-9, the schedule has been broken down by set, so you will need to know which set you are in for Sciences and Humanities. In Y7, there has been some rearrangements of the Humanities sets, so check your timetable carefully: this is available on the Parent Portal but don't worry if you can't see it before Wednesday: your tutor will help you with this in tutor time on Wednesday morning, and you will still see all your lesson appointments appearing in Teams.
- Note that the schedule for week 2 (from 11 Jan) is different.
- Here are some examples of how to read the schedule for this week:
 - Example 1: you are in Year 9, set 3 Maths, set 2 English, set Q Science and set C_alpha Humanities. Your schedule for *this week* is:

Wednesday: English (ALL sets have this), Spanish or German (ALL sets have this), Chemistry

Thursday: Physics, DT, Geography

Friday: Biology, History, RS

Saturday: Maths (ALL sets have this), Classics

- Example 2: you are in Year 7, set 1 Maths, set 2 English, set P Science and set LA Humanities:

Wednesday: Maths, Computing, History

Thursday: English, Geography, RS

Friday: French, Physics, Biology

Saturday: English & Maths

- Because your live lessons will fall in different slots each day, you will need to be organised about when you do your assignment work. The total amount of time you should be spending on work (in or out of lessons) has been carefully calculated to ensure that you shouldn't have long gaps during the day when you aren't working. Plan your breaks sensibly at the usual breaktimes and lunchtimes.
- As with the first period of home learning, "Constructive Time" has been scheduled for the second Wednesday. This is your opportunity to get involved with something active, a House activity, reading... please use it wisely.
- For Sixth Formers, there might be a bit more flexibility in when the lessons happen. Because all subjects in a single timetable block are not taught on all days, you might, for example, have a lesson in a slot that you don't normally have that subject. All live lessons will still appear in your Teams calendar, however. If you think you have two lessons that clash, please let your teachers know.
- Live lessons will be recorded: you must have your camera ON.
- For Year 11 and Upper Sixth, an updated mock exam timetable is attached here. If you are in the Lower Sixth but were expecting to do a mock, these will take place in clash sessions when you return in week beginning 18th January: only Year 11 and Upper Sixth will be in from Monday 11th January.
- If you have an EXTERNAL exam (for example BTEC Sport or Functional Skills), these will take place in school as normal, regardless of your year group: you must come in for these.

Good luck and take care, everyone. We're very much looking forward to seeing you in person as soon as we can.

Dr Truss