



In Partnership to Educate, Nurture & Empower

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2nd June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well.

As we approach the final half term for this academic year, I just wanted to thank you for your ongoing support as we strive to maintain a calm and purposeful environment for our students during this unprecedented time. We appreciate that it has not been an easy adjustment for students to adapt to the new reality which has seen them learning remotely, and we are mindful of family circumstances and routines impacting on students when they are learning from home.

We now know that for all of our students in Years 7, 8, 9,10 and 12, the rest of this academic year will consist entirely or mostly of continued remote learning. This provides us with the ongoing challenge of engaging students and also the challenge of communicating with these students, acknowledging their work, helping them with advice and giving meaningful feedback.

For this reason, we are continuing to invest time and effort into improving remote learning and we appreciate the feedback we have received regarding how to further support both students and parents. Providing work and feedback for our students will not only keep them motivated but also ensure they are maintaining some form of daily routine for their own wellbeing and mental health. We are keen to reduce the load on 'parents as teachers' whilst also ensuring that knowledge gaps now do not slow down later learning.

Years 7 and 8

Following feedback from parents, discussions as a teaching community and published guidance from educational research, we have made the decision to move to learning projects in non-core subjects at KS3 for the remainder of this academic year. In order to guarantee maximum engagement from students we believe that by asking them to undertake projects in non-core subjects it will ensure that they are continuing to build upon their prior learning and understanding without being overwhelmed. We also hope that by focusing solely on three non-core subjects each week they will have the opportunity to further develop their interest and engagement in the subject matter and, as a result, receive much more specific and motivational feedback.

- This half-term teachers in core subjects (English, Maths and Science) will continue setting class work in accordance with students timetabled lessons. Two REACT / Review weeks have been scheduled for this half term to enable students to either catch up on work / respond to any extension tasks / review and respond to their REACT target from their teachers.
- In non-core subjects, students will be set projects or tasks that will focus on reviewing and consolidating what they have already been taught this academic year. Each week students will be asked to complete projects for three non-core subjects, in addition to their English, Maths and Science lessons. The learning projects will revisit and build on concepts and ideas that are already familiar to students, developing fluency and confidence in what they already know.
- Teachers will provide a clear summary of expectations to enable students to fully understand the task(s).
- Where possible, students will be directed to additional tools that they may need to help them with their project. For example, PowerPoints, information sheets, BBC Bitesize, videos, school-subscribed software etc.



- All KS3 project work will be sent to students via MILK by 4pm on the Friday before the week it is to be completed to enable parents to support students where possible. Teachers will also highlight how work is to be submitted and a deadline for this.
- Departments will inform students which project is to receive detailed written feedback and a REACT target for them to respond to. For the project that does not receive detailed written feedback there is an expectation that students will be provided with Class Chart points and either an acknowledgement MILK message that it has been received or whole-class feedback.

| Date | Subject | | | |
|----------|----------|--|------------|-----------|
| 01.06.20 | Core | English | Maths | Science |
| | Non-Core | Ensure all work from last half term has been completed and uploaded by students. | | |
| 08.06.20 | Core | English | Maths | Science |
| | Non-Core | Geography | Art | Computing |
| 15.06.20 | Core | REACT / Review Week – English / Maths / Science | | |
| | Non-Core | History | Technology | Drama |
| 22.06.20 | Core | English | Maths | Science |
| | Non-Core | RS | Music | MFL |
| 29.06.20 | Core | English | Maths | Science |
| | Non-Core | Geography | Art | Computing |
| 06.07.20 | Core | REACT / Review Week – English / Maths / Science | | |
| | Non-Core | History | Technology | Drama |
| 13.07.20 | Core | English | Maths | Science |
| | Non-Core | RS | Music | MFL |

Years 9, 10 and 12

- Students will continue to be set work via MILK or email by their subject teachers each morning in accordance with their timetabled lessons. It is important that any work completed by students is submitted using FOLDER or through email in order to receive appropriate feedback.

Feedback

- All completed remote-learning tasks will receive Class Chart points. Teachers will look to award a number of positives, especially where it is evident time and effort has been taken.
- In-line with academy expectations, all students will receive detailed written feedback and a REACT target for an identified piece of work / task this half term. Students must REACT to their feedback to enable them to make further progress in their learning.
- Students will receive regular developmental and motivational feedback in a variety of ways by their teachers to enable them to make progress. Examples may include an acknowledgement MILK message / audio feedback / whole-class feedback / PowerPoints including exemplar work and identified misconceptions / quizzes which will provide feedback if a student selects an incorrect answer. At Post-16 some departments will look to provide online feedback and the academy is working hard to increase the number of video explanations and 'live' explanations and discussions.

Finally, from the 8th June if students have any questions / concerns about their learning, they will be able to communicate directly with staff by school email, MILK or Microsoft teams. A timetable of when teachers will be available for each subject will be sent to students via MILK by the end of this week.

Thank you very much for your support in ensuring that a suitable learning environment is put in place for your son / daughter to be able to make the best progress possible.

We thank you for your patience and support during this time.

Yours faithfully

Ms Hanbridge

Assistant Principal (Teaching & Learning)