



21st September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

As you will be aware, the number of Covid-19 cases both locally and nationally are on the increase. Whilst making our arrangements for re-opening in September, we recognised that this would most probably be the case and that at some point the expectation would be that students would spend some time working independently at home 'Home Learning'. To prepare for this, we asked our Heads of Subject to work with their teams to prepare aspects of the curriculum that could be delivered effectively in the classroom or as remote learning on-line. We also created a timetable for the beginning of this academic year that would recognise the importance of remote 'Home Learning' as well as provide the opportunity for students to be well prepared for working independently.

What is 'Home Learning' at Denton Community College?

Essentially 'Home Learning' is the curriculum students have the opportunity to engage with when not in school. At Denton Community College, 'Home Learning' does not manifest itself in one format. There are multiple parts to the concept, each of which supports students in different ways and covers different scenarios. The aim of 'Home Learning' is always:

- To ensure students can continue to acquire the knowledge aspect of the curriculum wherever they may be or the circumstances in which they find themselves.
- To provide opportunity to enrich and extend the curriculum as well as allow students to apply the knowledge they have acquired.
- To minimise any disadvantage a student may find themselves in due to illness and/or absence.
- To build resilience and provide the opportunity to work independently.

To ensure we can meet our aims at Denton Community College our 'Home Learning' consists of both on-line and paper resources. 'Home Learning' content will consist of several strands including weekly tasks; contingency learning; Google Classroom lesson content & activities (e.g. presentations and worksheets).

Weekly Task

Each department will set a **Weekly Task** of an hour in length (formerly called Homework) which will either extend the knowledge of students or apply existing knowledge to support their mastery of the curriculum. The weekly task will be made available via Google Classroom. It will be explained in detail by the class teacher during lessons and reviewed by the Form Tutor during tutorial. We expect students to make a record of these tasks and the completion deadline in their student planner. It is our expectation that **Weekly Tasks** will constitute an additional 10 hours of weekly learning for students outside of the classroom and that all students will complete this body of work.

Contingency Learning

If a student is absent from school for any reason (e.g. illness or self-isolation), they are now able to access the relevant curriculum content directly from home. **Contingency Learning** can be found via the 'Home Learning' section of our website which can be accessed by clicking [here](#). In this section of the website, you will find subject specific links to online content that is relevant to the curriculum being delivered to a particular year group at that point in time. This content will be updated every two weeks to ensure it reflects the current

curriculum being delivered to students. This section will be very useful if students are unable to access Google Classroom for any particular reason.

Google Classroom

The majority of the 'Home Learning' accessed by students will be delivered via Google Classroom. During the first few weeks of this term, we have ensured that all students are now familiar with their login details and have accessed this online learning platform. Through Google Classroom, we will ensure that students have access to:

- The **Weekly Task** for each subject
- Power-points & presentations from lessons
- Worksheets & information sheets from each lesson
- Lesson tasks in the event that a student is absent from the classroom
- Subject specific quizzes
- Assessment materials & tasks when appropriate
- Links to additional online enrichment & extension material

This platform also allows the opportunity for lessons and meetings to be delivered live or recorded so that they can be shared with students working from home. Student are able to submit work directly to their teacher and receive constructive feedback.

Home Learning Afternoon

Whilst we all want our young people to be in school all of the time, we have implemented a 'Home Learning' afternoon to the curriculum for each year group. This concept has been introduced to:

- Allow for the deep cleaning of different zones within the building
- Allow for the movement of students around the building safely so that students can be taught in subject specific practical classrooms (e.g. art, science, technology)
- Build on the good 'Home Learning' habits developed during 'Lockdown'
- Ensure students recognise the importance of 'Home Learning' and the part it plays in the curriculum, especially in the event of pupil absence, self-isolation or illness
- Support students in developing their skills in working independently and therefore building resilience

Each year group is now working from home one afternoon on the same day each week. This is a structured period of learning during which students are expected to work through the weekly tasks that have been set. Through 'Home Learning' we intend to use technology to better prepare our students for their future studies, therefore the work set will be supported by a blend of paper & on-line resources. 'Home Learning' is a formal part of our curriculum, as such the work will be monitored by classroom teachers and quality assured by the Senior Leadership Team.

Preparing students for their Home Learning Afternoon

Years 7, 8 & 9 (KS3)

On the day of their **Home Learning Afternoon**, KS3 students undertake a personal study session with their Form Tutor during the timetabled tutorial period. To support Form Tutors deliver this session, each form has been allocated a TA from our Inclusion Team. The session begins with a 10 minute teaching point on generic independent study skills such as note making, mind mapping or information retrieval. For the remainder of the tutorial, the Form Tutor will confirm the **Weekly Tasks** set out for their form and we expect students to record these in their planners. During the remaining time, students are expected to begin working on the **Weekly Tasks**.

Years 10 & 11 (KS4)

Due to the importance of independent working & 'Home Learning' in preparing for their GCSEs, KS4 students receive all the tutorial support set out above for KS3 students. In addition to this, KS4 students have a timetabled personal study lesson on the day of their **Home Learning Afternoon**. This is delivered by two departments in College and has been designed to meet the needs of our KS4 learners. The lesson begins with direct teaching of revision skills to support their independent learning and the remainder of the lesson requires students to continue to complete their **Weekly Tasks** set by subject teachers. For some students this provides additional time for work on formal assignments required for their GCSEs.

We want all our students to continue to build their independence and resilience, so it will be up to the individual to decide which tasks to complete and when across the week. However, if students do find managing their own time difficult, especially how they best use the **Home Learning Afternoon**, then they should discuss this with their Form Tutor who will be more than happy to help. It is, however, our expectation that all **Weekly Tasks** must be completed within the week.

Please note that:

- It is essential that students know their login details for Google Classroom and any other apps (e.g. Mathswatch and GCSEpod)
- The completion of **Weekly Tasks** is not optional. This 'Home Learning' is essential to success in school and must be completed on time and to the best of the student's ability
- Students must behave respectfully online, as set out in our user agreement
- Students will be fully prepared for their **Home Learning Afternoon** session through Tutorial at KS3 and the additional personal study sessions at KS4

How can you support your child?

- Ask your child about their 'Home Learning'
- Ask what **Weekly Tasks** have been set and check their progress
- Check your child's planner to ensure they have recorded their **Weekly Tasks**
- If your child has an issue accessing the Weekly Task or Google Classroom, please contact their 'Form Tutor'
- Direct your child towards the **Contingency Learning** in addition to their **Weekly Tasks** if they are absent from school for any reason
- If you have any issues accessing the internet for any reason, please contact the school immediately so that alternative arrangements for 'Home Learning' can be implemented immediately

Please contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year if you need any support with online 'Home Learning'. Your child's education is our priority and we are always here to help. You can also find further guidance and support with 'Home Learning' on the college website.

Yours sincerely

Greg Rule
(Headteacher)