



15th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we are now at end of our initial two weeks blended learning plan I am writing with a few updates. I have given each one a subtitle to make this letter an easy reference point in the coming weeks.

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support over this time. Your messages of thanks and support have meant a great deal to all of us and have been a terrific bonus in what has been a very challenging time. Thank you also for your patience and understanding in getting to grips with remote learning. Please be assured, we fully understand the difficulties of learning from home and ensuring students remain focused and motivated throughout each day. Your efforts in supporting students (often while working yourselves) has been a vital part of your son/daughter's learning. There is a real united and common purpose around this school community and we have been so impressed with the response from parents as well as students. Thank you!

Structure of the day

Please make sure you support your son/daughter in maintaining a structured day. They should be up and dressed by the time their first lessons begin! Parents have fed back that making a simple timetable for each day is an effective approach. Please be sure to plan in regular breaks, fresh air and relaxation.

Satchel One

Please can I ask you to ensure that you are logged on to the parent app'. We had a couple of incidents last week where students told their parents they had completed work when they in fact they had not! If you are on the parent app', you can clearly see what has, and has not been completed.

Submission of Work and Deadlines

Whilst **work should be submitted on the day it is set**, we do not expect it to be submitted by the end of each lesson. Therefore, please do not worry if it is submitted later in the day. We have had some reports of students becoming upset if they think a particular piece of work is slightly late. Our approach to remote learning allows a degree of flexibility for families so please take advantage of this if you need to. Please also note that teachers will not always be able to acknowledge or feed back on work on the same day (as would always be the case in school anyway).

When sending work in, please encourage students to do this through Satchel One. This helps the teacher feed back and keep a track of completed work. Please click on the following link for further guidance on how to do this:

<https://help.satchelone.com/en/articles/2912000-submitting-my-work-online>

It is also possible to access remote learning through an X-Box. Please see the clip below if you need guidance on this:

https://youtu.be/se6HSfg_6HE

Recorded Lessons

These have been working very well indeed and staff are working hard at producing high quality recorded lessons on a variety of formats. To get the best out of these, please encourage your son/daughter to pause or rewind if they do not understand what has been said. Then, if they still need further clarification, email the relevant teacher for help.

Live Lessons

Tutors have begun live tutor sessions with their groups this week and there are an increasing number of live lessons taking place. To get the best out of these, we have learned that it is sometimes necessary for students to attend through the app' rather than the school system. Also, where possible, we expect students to have their cameras on to give teachers the best possible chance interacting effectively. Students can easily add a blurred background if required. Again, please be patient and understanding as we develop our use of the technology! For extra guidance on how to access Teams, please click on the link below from Mrs Ball:

<https://www.loom.com/share/2c2b8b1dcd6848ed937c069d308f93f2>

Thank you once again for your support during this time.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Rome
Assistant Head Teacher