

CARDINAL WISEMAN

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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14th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to begin this letter by saying thank you to you all for your support during these first two weeks of term as we have entirely moved to an online curriculum with your child being taught remotely in the form of live lessons for each of their timetabled lessons. Overall student attendance has been good and it is evident that students are benefitting from the interaction and work set by their class teachers.

As a leadership team, we have reflected upon the impact of our provision, the sustainability of our current procedures and whether there are alternatives that will ease the pressure of live lessons for students and staff alike whilst maintaining pupil progress. Currently students are online and actively engaged in their learning for 330 minutes equivalent of 5 and a half hours a day with the exception of a Friday which is 4 hours this is above the government recommendations of what must be provided. Live lessons can take a physical toll as students are staring at the computer screen for a significant proportion of the day. Whilst we believe that there are many positives to live lessons and will continue to offer them there are clear benefits to students completing independent work at their own pace without the need to attend online lessons.

Taking all of this into consideration and ensuring we adhere to government guidelines, we have taken the decision to amend the school timetable from Monday 18th January whereby your child will receive a blend of both live lessons alongside independent work set by class teachers. Your child has today been issued via their school email a new timetable, the lessons shown on this state which will be live lessons whereby your child should be present on Google Classroom and content taught by their teacher. For the remaining lessons on their original timetable work will be set (on Google classroom) by the class teacher for completion independently without the need to attend a lesson. This will provide greater flexibility for work completion and less demand on screen time.

For your information outlined below are the government expectations for remote learning during the lockdown period. It is important to note that the specified four hours' work a day can be in any form.

Schools and teachers are expected to:

- Set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects.
- Secondary schools should ensure students have four hours' work a day, with more for those working towards formal qualifications this year.
- Provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos.
- Have systems for checking, at least weekly, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and inform parents immediately where engagement is a concern.
- Gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum using questions and other suitable tasks.
- Provide feedback, at least weekly, using "digitally facilitated or whole-class feedback where appropriate".
- Enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding.

We appreciate fully your support at this time, if you have any questions or queries please email slt@cardinalwiseman.net

In the meantime, we hope you all stay safe and look forward to your child returning when it is safe to do so to school.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Stoker