

Remote Learning Expectations Spring 2021

Overview

The provision for remote learning has significantly shifted since the initial lockdown last March. We are now able to lift our usual timetable onto Microsoft Teams and deliver a live offer to all students and have practiced with all students, staff and families two virtual mornings which have prepared us well for this school closure. The communication lines between home and school are fully open and we hope that you and your child contact the tutors, teachers or heads of year if there is anything that you would like to discuss. Despite live lessons being superior to pre recorded ones, they still require self discipline and routine which is not always easy when you have to stay at home. We are here to support your child in any way we can.

If a teacher is absent

We will aim for all lessons to be live, but this will not be possible if a teacher is sick and unable to work. In light of the pandemic, this is unfortunately inevitable. We will endeavour to put a message onto the students' Teams channel for each year group when teachers are not available to work so that they are not waiting for a live lessons to start. In an event that a teacher is unable to work, work will be set for the students in their class Team that should be completed in the lesson time as normal.

Marking, Feedback and Assessment

Teachers are rapidly changing their practice to respond to online learning. They are finding innovative ways to feedback to students, but this may not be in the conventional way. The benefit of delivering live lessons is that students can ask teachers questions and vice versa throughout the lesson and any problem can be quickly remedied. Students can keep to the pace of the lesson and engage with their teachers.

Students can work on documents through the assignments setting where teachers can see each student typing in real time, and give immediate feedback. As teachers have moved their regular timetables online, it is not feasible for them to respond to every piece of classwork that each student completes. However, this method really does replicate walking around a classroom and checking how the students are doing as they complete their work. We will continue to develop methods of assessing the progress of the students throughout the lessons.

Our usual 'FAR' marking will still take place; once every half term for KS3 and twice a half term for KS4 and 5. This is most likely to be on a task completed via the assignment tool.

Homework

As students are spending so much time on a screen, we have adapted our homework expectations. Years 7, 8 and 9 will not be set any homework; it is important that they get a break from their learning. Year 10 may have homework activities to complete but these will be away from a computer as much as possible, such as watching a documentary or listening to a podcast. Years 11, 12 and 13 will continue to have homework as required.

Expectations of students

Students are expected to behave in the online lessons impeccably. Learning online is very different to learning in the classroom, but students must try to engage in the lessons the best that they can so that they do not fall behind.

All teachers have the following expectations of the students:

- All lessons are recorded
- Wherever possible, please log in to Teams on your laptop. This will make it easier for you to use the chat function and access the work on assignments that you will need to complete. If this is not possible, you can log in through an iPad, iPhone or a PlayStation.
- Follow your timetable including tutor time. Each lesson will be 55 minutes; they will start at the scheduled time and finish 5 minutes earlier than usual.
- You can turn your microphone on to contribute answers and you can also use the chat function. The more interactive you are, the better!
- You are responsible for the words that you write and we expect you to treat the chat as a professional communication with your peers and the teacher; it is not WhatsApp and should not be used to comment on anything other than the lesson itself. Anyone who abuses the chat function will be held to account for their words and potentially removed from the group and set work outside of Teams.
- Communicate with your form tutor or head of year if you are having any problems; we will try to fix them as quickly as we can!
- Make sure that you look after yourselves. After 5 lessons in front of a screen, you need to build time into your day to get some fresh air and enjoy time on your hobbies.