Guidance for parents supporting their child during remote Learning

It is important that you understand that there is no expectation for you to act as a teacher and get directly involved in the work set. We appreciate that you may be busy working or looking after other family members who may be dependent on you.

If as parents, you can support your child to engage with remote learning and provide your child a space to work with minimal distractions then you are doing a great job. Here are some things that you can do to support your child.

1. Check that they have the passwords that they need for the school's platforms and subject software logins. If these have been forgotten or lost, please contact your child's tutor for general logins or their subject teacher for subject software logins.

2. Encourage them to get into the habit of checking their school email and MS Teams daily for messages from their teachers.

3. Try where possible, to create a space for them to attend live lessons and work with minimal distraction.

4. When working outside live lessons e.g. on homework or coursework encourage them to work in short but frequent spells. Frequent spells of 15-30 minutes with equivalent breaks make completing work much more manageable than 2-3 hours in one sitting.

5. Encourage your child to develop a consistent working routine and a consistent sleeping routine.

6. Encourage your child to check the deadlines set for their assignments daily and have a plan in place to meet these on time.

7. Try to avoid your child prioritizing a small number of subjects at the exclusion of others. It is important that your child's curriculum is as broad and varied as possible, restricting this will cause difficulties once they return to school fully.

8. Encourage your child to be proactive about contacting their teachers or tutor if they are having difficulties with their work rather than avoiding the issue. We would much rather know about an issue at an early stage so that we can put support in place for them quickly.

What should you expect from our remote education offer?

Accessing Timetabled Lessons

Should the school be closed to all students your child will have access to 'Live Lessons' or to 'Live Teaching'. These sessions will only take place on MS Teams and will follow your child's normal weekly timetable. Your child's timetable can be found on E-Praise and your child's teachers will set up the live lessons so that they can be viewed in your child's MS Teams calendar.

The only exceptions to this are:

- PE for KS3 students
- Core PE for KS4 students
- Enrichment sessions for students in year 10 not taking triple science

KS4 PE options groups (OCR Technical & GCSE PE) will have lessons as normal.

Curriculum

We teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. Students in key stage 4 and the sixth form will be studying content in line with exam board specifications, they will usually find that the curriculum plans already in place will remain largely unchanged. Where changes are necessary e.g., where access to specialist equipment prohibits work in a particular area such as Science practicals, then teachers will have contingency plans for these changes which will be clearly communicated to the students.

Students in key stage 3 may find that projects in practical subjects are changed or reordered because of access to specialist equipment or because other units of work lend themselves more to online learning.

Our curriculum plans for each subject at key stage 3 and 4 can be found in the Specific Information section of the website using the link below.

https://website.droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk/index.php/curriculum/

Lessons

Students will continue to have five lessons per day in line with our normal timetable. Our breaks remain the same, as do our alternating split lunches for years 10 & 11.

Timetabled lessons are an hour in length however, we are very aware that our students will be spending a lot of time in front of screens. We have asked out teaching staff to be mindful of this and to build in natural breaks to give time students a little time between the changeover in lessons. Teachers may also build in screen breaks during lessons by introducing tasks that take students away from their screens.

Teachers will use a wide variety of teaching resources and strategies depending on the subject content that they are delivering. Students are used to using a wide variety of remote learning tools

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and educational websites as part of their normal curriculum experience. Many teaching staff will also record narrated PowerPoints or will video parts of Teams lessons to aid revision of key concepts and demonstrations.

Equipment for accessing lessons

Online lessons are best accessed on a desktop or laptop computer. Tablets and mobile phones are useful for viewing lessons and will allow some level of interaction, but it will be much harder to complete assignments on mobile devices than on a computer or laptop.

We recognise that this provides difficulties for some families who either do not have access to computers and laptops or who have several members of their family sharing a device or devices.

We asked students to complete a survey in September about their access to devices at home and have spoken to students and families about how we can support them in accessing remote learning. We have prioritised those students entitled to free school meals in allocating the devices that we have available at school. We are constantly trying to source more devices for our students. If parents need help with devices, internet connection, routers or dongles they should contact their child's Head of House to discuss how we can help.

Some subjects may send paper copies of work home in the post to you. In most cases teaching staff will ask students to take pictures of this work and return it through the assignments section of Teams. There is advice on our website about how to do this using a mobile phone.

https://website.droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Scanning-Documents-in-the-One-Drive-App.mp4

If you are unable to take pictures of your work to hand in on Teams please ask you child to let their teacher know. Your child should keep the work in a folder or book and bring this into school once we return.

Engagement and Feedback

Teachers will take a register during every live lesson; this information is recorded centrally in Arbor. This will allow teaching staff, form tutors and the pastoral team to monitor attendance and engagement with remote lessons. If we have concerns about your child's attendance at online lessons your child's Head of House will contact you to discuss the reasons for any absence. Senior leaders may also send attendance reminders to parents of those students who still struggle to engage with online lessons.

The students have each signed a code of conduct which outlines our expectations for attendance and behaviour during periods of remote learning. A copy of these documents is available on our website.

https://website.droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk/index.php/curriculum/remote-learning/

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Feedback will take many forms and will not always mean extensive written feedback for individual students. Many of our remote learning tools make use of self-marking quizzes and assignments. Students in exam classes may be given mark schemes of model answers to self-mark test papers and some teaching staff will make use of some of the collaborative learning features in Teams to support students' understanding. It is important to note that not every piece of work will be marked and that very often the request for work to be uploaded is simply for the teacher to check that the work has been completed and the lesson content understood. Staff will often use the students' response to plan their next lesson, or any interventions should they be needed.

There is no set period for how often your child will receive feedback on their work. This is subject and task dependent and feedback maybe given to groups or the whole class rather than individual students.

Support for student with additional needs

We recognise that some pupils, for example some pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access remote education without support from adults at home. We acknowledge the difficulties this may place on families, and we will work with parents and carers to support those pupils in the following ways:

- TAs will be allocated to lessons to support SEND students
- SEND students and their families will receive regular contact from a TA or someone in the SEND team to check that the student is able to access the online lessons and the work set
- Hard copies of work will be posted home where this is deemed appropriate
- Teaching will adapt resources to promote access e.g. narrated PowerPoints or reading texts to students
- There are a number of additional resources that you can access on our website which will guide you how to use some of the accessibility features in the programs that your child will be using for remote learning

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