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Dear Parents/Guardians

Now that we are coming up to a week of remote learning, it is a good time to clarify how lessons will work going forwards in order to support our students.

We appreciate that our learners are now facing long periods of screen work, which needs to be managed carefully. For the benefit of their mental health and general wellbeing, we would like to allow time for students to undertake physical activity and engage with family life, as well as completing their school work.

To this end, we are modifying our remote learning expectations to allow some flexibility and variation in our students' work whilst adhering to the government guidelines of 3-5 hours of learning provision (live or otherwise) per school day. Whilst individual subject departments within the school will have their own approach to this blended learning model, we anticipate that this will include:

- Live taught lessons. Any live lessons will be scheduled in advance and take place on MS Teams according to a student's usual timetable (except in exceptional circumstances). Some lessons will be recorded for use within the school only (for example, to allow students who are unable to get online for the lesson to catch up later). For the privacy and safety of all concerned, students must keep their cameras off unless directed otherwise by the teacher, and must not record lessons themselves or take screenshots during lessons. More advice about learning safely online can be found at the end of this letter.
- Lessons where teachers set work and remain available for support, but are not live teaching. In this case a variety of tasks, including some independent work supervised virtually by teachers and some independent work to be completed will be set by the teacher.
- Lessons with pre-set independent work. For these lessons, work will be set on MS Teams with a specific deadline to allow students more flexibility in their learning (students may need some help organising themselves to ensure deadlines are met).
- Some lessons may well include a mixture of the learning options above. Regardless of format, students will receive plenty of interaction with and feedback from their teachers.

As a full day of lessons at home is intense, we have reviewed homework provision during the lockdown period and this now changes as below:

- Years 7 & 8 will not receive specific homework from their teachers.
- Years 9, 10 & 11: work will only be set where needed in order for students to make the required progress in their GCSE courses. This may be a continuation of classwork in order to ensure completion or a consolidation task. Students should see a reduction in homework.
- Sixth form will receive homework as before, as they have more independent study time to complete this.

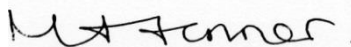
- Homework / out of school time should be used to complete any remaining classwork or catch up on any lessons students were unable to attend.

We hope this is beneficial to learning and well-being going forwards and that students are able to free up a little time during the school day to enjoy their daily physical activity. We will continue to monitor the remote learning provision over the next few weeks and hope you and your family stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully



Dan Brown
Head of Lower School



Marie Jenner
Head of Middle School



Zoe Lambard
Head of Sixth Form

Resources for safer online learning:

Keeping children safe online is difficult at the best of times. We have gathered together some useful resources which we hope will help.

We strongly recommend you read the government guidance to parents regarding keeping children safe online. This can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

In addition, the NSPCC provides a lot of useful guidance on individual problems that may arise online, such as sexting, online games, inappropriate content etc, as well as how to set up parental controls. This can be found here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Internetmatters.org have produced guidance aimed at slightly older children (14+), and includes a parental guide and an internet safety checklist:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/14plus/>

For reporting serious offences that occur online, the National Crime Agency run CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection). You can make a report or request advice from one of their Child Protection Officers here: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>