

Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Year 8 Parent/Carer,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday about the third lockdown, we find ourselves in another situation where our students must complete their learning at home. We know that The Park will be working in this way until half term at least. We also know how difficult this is for many whilst trying to juggle home learning with your own work and family commitments. We have been in touch with all families who are critical workers and families with particularly vulnerable children and have a number of students who are following the Google Classroom timetable in school.

However, we knew another lockdown was a possibility, therefore we used the online learning survey you completed before Christmas to listen to your views and think of new ways we could further engage students when they are learning at home. Three common points were raised:

- The need for more face-to-face time with teachers so that work can be explained
- The need for student wellbeing, mental health and therapeutic support – not just traditional learning
- The challenges around getting your children to read regularly and complete work due to a lack of enthusiasm

The Year 8 team have been reviewing our remote learning experience for our students and our new learning plan is summarised below. The broad principles are as follows:

- All class teachers will continue to be available each morning at 9am for Live Tutor on Zoom (mandatory for all unless agreed with school for exceptional circumstances)
- Teachers will provide a feedback though out the day via Google classroom chat and are available to talk via email and phone calls if needed
- At the end of the day there will be a final live session where activities such as group reading, phonics tasks, wellbeing activities and such a like will be focused on and individualised for students that will be identified.

Please encourage your child to join all sessions if you can. I recognise that some of you may have more than one child at home and it is very challenging to ensure that all of your children are on-line at the correct time. Please just do what you can. We also understand that sticking to our suggested timetable below may be challenging due to work commitments and the sharing of technology etc so in these instances your child completing their 3 subjects per day and attending the morning zoom is our minimum expectation.

This timetable will go Live from Tuesday 12th January due to testing of staff

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-9:15-9.30 Tutor Zoom	9-9:15-9.30 Tutor Zoom	9-9:15-9.30 Tutor Zoom	9-9:15-9.30 Tutor Zoom	9-9:15-9.30 Tutor Zoom
9:30-10:15 Maths	9:30-10:15 Science	9:30-10:15 Maths	9:30-10:15 Science	9:30-10:15 Maths
10:15-10:45 Movement and snack break	10:15-10:45 Movement and snack break	10:15-10:45 Movement and snack break	10:15-10:45 Movement and snack break	10:15-10:45 Movement and snack break
10:45-11:30 English	11:15-12:00 RE	10:45-11:30 English	11:15-12:00 Art	10:45-11:30 English
12:00-1pm Lunch	12:00-1pm Lunch	12:00-1pm Lunch	12:00-1pm Lunch	12:00-1pm Lunch

1:15 ICT	1:15 Communication Studies	1:15 PSHCE/Careers	1:15 Digital Media	1:15 History
2:00 Individualised reading and wellbeing zoom	2:00 Individualised reading and wellbeing zoom	2:00 Individualised reading and wellbeing zoom	2:00 Individualised reading and wellbeing zoom	2:00 Individualised reading and wellbeing zoom

What can I do to help my child at home?

- If possible, provide a workspace or desk with all necessary equipment and stationery
- Provide your child with the above timetable so that they know when they are expected to work. There should be clear cut off points as we have in school to allow children to relax.
- Establish a routine for getting up in the morning and going to bed at night.
- Try to provide the opportunity for some fresh air and exercise. It is important that children get the chance to run around and burn off some energy
- Have an end to the school day when all work is put away and learning has finished
- Try to provide small rewards to encourage your child. This should recognise your child's positive attitude and their effort rather than results. We will be rewarding them with additional house points for attending live sessions and completing work. We are going to trial sending certificates home for outstanding pieces of work and effort.

Please remember that we are here to help! If you are finding any aspects of learning at home challenging, then please contact us so that we can find ways to support.

So far this week the quality of work and the engagement in learning has been excellent so we thank you for working in partnership with us. Like yourselves, we have every intention to ensure that your child's learning does not suffer during this time and welcome any further feedback you may have to help us improve our online learning offer.

We have no doubt that is going to be a challenging half term and one in which we are all going to need to work together. It was a real joy to walk round school this morning and listen to all the tutor groups meeting 'virtually', laughing and joking with one another. If things do become challenging, please let us know and support will be provided immediately. Each week you will also receive a telephone call from your child's form tutor or a member of the pastoral support team to see how you are. We have also issued vouchers this week to those parents who are eligible for free schools meals.

Thank you for the continued support you have shown to the staff team throughout this difficult period it has been immensely appreciated.

We wish you all well and hope you all keep safe!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Walsh and Mr McCarthy

Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher