



20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Teaching and Learning during school closure for Year 11

As you are aware the government has announced that UK schools will close on Friday but will remain open to children of critical workers and vulnerable children. Students who do not fall into these categories should stay at home. See this link for more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

We are aware that Year 11 will be feeling very anxious at this time and that they are disappointed that they will not have had the opportunity for their end of year celebrations. It was a difficult decision to close the school to Year 11 today but the safety of our students is of paramount importance and we must continually assess as a school what we can safely provide with the staff we have available. We will ensure that we offer a year 11 celebration event at a time when all students and all their teachers are able to attend. We are making provisional plans for this during the first week of the new academic year in September. If your daughter would like to contribute to the planning of this event an opportunity to do so will be made available after Easter.

We are aware that you are very concerned about the situation regarding exams. We are hoping that the government will confirm arrangements later today. Once we know this we can then begin to plan ways to support your child in preparing for the next stage in their education. The key thing to remember is that, as all students across the UK are in the same situation, our students are not at any disadvantage. However, until we know any different, we would urge Year 11 to continue their work today as normal, following their normal timetable. We are already using a range of online devices to set work including Hegarty Maths, Seneca for Science, Google Classroom and Classcharts. Students have also been sent their GCSE Pod logins and I would urge students to use this as it is a great learning aid. Please also find attached a Learning Toolkit that they may find helpful for revision. Feel free to use this with your other children as it applies to all ages.

If as parents you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's learning or access to resources, please don't hesitate to contact main reception. We are also putting additional provisions in place for our Free School Meals students and have already been in touch with this group. We cannot at this time allow students to come into school to collect work as this would encourage unnecessary travel, however all work set will ensure that students do not need their exercise books.

Thank you for your continued support around this constantly changing situation. I will write again next week with a more detailed plan regarding learning once the situation around exams and next steps has been confirmed.

Kind regards

Kate Cooper
Assistant Principal

GCSE POD

Your child has already been registered with GCSE Pod, so all they need to do is activate their account by following the instructions below.

- 1) Go to www.gcsepod.com and click “**Login**” in the top right-hand corner
- 2) Click “**New here? Get started.**”
- 3) Select “**Student**”
- 4) Enter your child’s **name, date of birth and the school name.**
- 5) Create a **username, password, and a password hint** to help them remember the password.

YEAR 11 EXAM BOARDS

- AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/> - Physical Education , French, Geography, Drama, German, Spanish, Science, Maths, Art
- EDEXCEL <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html> - Business, History, Music, Russian, BTEC Performing Arts
- OCR <https://www.ocr.org.uk/> - Religious Studies, Computer Science, Engineering, Additional Maths, Food and Nutrition
- WJEC <https://www.wjec.co.uk/> - English Literature/Language (WJEC Eduqas), Latin

LEARNING TOOLKIT for students (and their family)

To provide structure and routine we would suggest that students follow their normal timetable.

Alongside key disciplinary skills having powerful knowledge is the key to success in learning. Retrieval of knowledge is essential in order to commit this knowledge to the long term memory. Once students have acquired and truly learned this knowledge they can then apply this in many ways. Equally important is for learners to understand how they learn and reflect on learning; this is known as metacognition. The following tasks will help with developing powerful knowledge and metacognition. The ones listed below can be used without being online and can be adapted for any subject or topic regardless of year group. They are also useful revision strategies.

If possible we would also encourage you or siblings to engage with each other as learning in collaboration can strengthen understanding. I have tried to also include some interactive and fun activities that hopefully the whole family might enjoy taking part in during this challenging time. Other activities (if appropriate) could include reading, cooking, drawing, walking or completing a workout video.

The Magical 3!

On a piece of paper write down everything you know about a topic. Wait 3 hours. Do this again. Wait 3 days do this again. Wait 3 weeks and do this again. This helps with transferring knowledge to the long term memory.

The quad

Divide an A3/A4 sheet of paper into 4. In box 1 write down everything you know about a topic. Ask questions, read a book, check exercise book, look online etc. In box 2 add more information (you can’t repeat what is in box 1). Wait 3 hours (or do the next day). Fold paper in half so you can’t see box 1 and 2. Write down



everything you can remember about the topic in box 3. Check your previous notes, do some more reading and then add new information to box 4.

Posters and Mindmaps

Make a poster or mind map about a topic. Think about what knowledge is most important. Think about what diagrams there should be. What key words should be in capitals and different colours. This is great for visual learners and can be stuck up in an area of the house to constantly look at.

RAG Rating

Look through all your key words and definitions. Decide if they are Red (can't remember), Amber (unsure), Green (confidently know these). Write the Red ones on a post it note and stick them on the wall. Once you have remembered these you can take it off your wall. You could stick Amber and Green ones on the wall also but leave these until last!

Creating quizzes or board games

Make up a list of questions with the answers or design your own board game. This could be a family activity at the end of the day!

Play pictictionary or charades

Using keywords your family have to guess them. Draw them or act them out.

Images linked to key words

Draw images and next to them write key words of definitions. Display these around the house to reinforce learning.

Teach your family about something

One of the most effective learning techniques is to teach somebody. Create a lesson or a task for your family. Spend time preparing resources, thinking about how you can test their understanding. Then teach your family the lesson.

Write a script

Write a script about something you have learnt. For example it could be a play in English or an event in History. Persuade your family to act this out with you!

Reflection of learning

What were the new things you learnt or developed today? How did you approach this? How did you respond when you got stuck? If you could ask your teacher one thing about this topic what would it be?