



20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Teaching and Learning during school closure for Year 7, 8 and 9

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>

For students who will not be in school from Monday, we are in the process of ensuring that they are able to continue to access high quality learning opportunities. We are constructing a bespoke timetable that will provide routine, structure and support. Much of this will be online. However, we will also be providing learning that does not require an electronic device. As you can appreciate, the situation is changing all the time and therefore our planning is constantly adapting. Please ensure that your child has access to school email ready for Monday morning so that they can follow instructions on how to access this learning. Those who cannot access this please follow the Learning Toolkit below. If online access will be a problem long term please contact your child's Tutor.

For students who are currently not able to be in school, we are already using a range of online resources to set work including Hegarty Maths, Seneca for Science, Google Classroom and Classcharts. If your child is struggling to log in and access any online resources please ask them to email their tutor or subject teacher. If your child does need to email their teacher or tutor please explain to them that many staff are not following their normal working routine and therefore may not be able to respond immediately. For any work they complete they need to keep this safely stored or to follow their teachers' instructions regarding submission.

Please discuss with your child the importance of using the time they are away from school to ensure that they are engaging with learning so that they don't develop gaps in their knowledge. We will endeavour to ensure that all students can access these resources regardless of their needs, but can we ask you to be patient initially as many staff are in school still teaching and resources and lessons do require planning.

If as parents and carers you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's learning or access to resources, please don't hesitate to contact your child's tutor. We are also putting additional provisions in place for our Free School Meal students and I have already been in touch with this group.

Thank you for your continued support. I do hope that the information provided in this letter and the attached Toolkit is helpful. I will contact you again next week with further details regarding learning from home.

Kind regards

Kate Cooper
Assistant Principal

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 your 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?