

29<sup>th</sup> April 2020

To: Parents and Carers

Dear Parent and Carer

Thank you for all of your support with your child's learning since the school closure began. Losing our usual routines is difficult for everyone and we don't underestimate the impact this is having in your home. Having a regular routine is helpful for all children. The academy has shared guidance, including a short video guide, with your child on how to create their own working from home timetable and we hope that you and your child(ren) have found this supportive.

It is also helpful for children to have a structured learning environment. The checklist attached to this letter has been shared with students this week. We would be very grateful if you could please help to reinforce the importance of having a structured approach to learning with your child(ren).

We know that your involvement in your child's learning makes a huge difference to how well they learn. Please be reassured, however, that you don't need to be an expert in secondary level school subjects in order to be able to help. In fact, the best way that you can support your child's learning at home is by having high expectations; talking to them about their school work; and helping them to establish a routine for learning.

It is important to acknowledge that learning new information is hard. Encountering new information in a home learning situation makes this harder still. Please encourage your child not to be put off by this. Not knowing something is important because it means that you have the opportunity to learn. Please reassure your child that as long as they try their best with all work, no teacher will be cross with them. If your child is struggling, please do encourage them to use the 'Stuck?' help sheet to work through this. If your child is finding it difficult to meet deadlines please let their tutor know so that we can work to offer further support as necessary.

The academy has created a bank of information and resources designed to help families support their child's education while the academy is closed. These can be found on the academy's COVID-19 microsite: <http://www.westlakesacademy.org.uk/covid-19-support-and-home-learning/>. I hope you find these useful. Please do let us know if there is any further information that you would find it helpful for us to include on this site.

Thank you again for all of your support with your child's home learning so far. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do contact me on [deeksa@westlakesmat.org.uk](mailto:deeksa@westlakesmat.org.uk).

Yours faithfully



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