

9th April 2020

To: Parents and Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your support in helping your child to access and complete home learning tasks over the last three weeks. Students have produced some extremely high quality work and it has been a pleasure to watch this coming in to Google Classrooms.

Thank you also to those parents who have been in touch to share feedback on how the first weeks of remote learning have gone for you and your child(ren). There have been many positives and we are grateful to you for sharing these with us. There have also been some concerns raised about how long it is taking children to complete tasks set, particularly for students in younger year groups. Sometimes this is to be due to the amount of work set, and sometimes it's due to students not being able to access tasks without the support they would usually have from their teacher.

In response to this feedback, and to feedback gathered from our staff, we have decided to modify our approach to setting remote learning for the next half term as follows:

Amount of work

Students in **Years 7-10** can now expect to receive work from up to a maximum of five different subject areas per week, on a rota as shown below. The rota will ensure that all students cover all subjects at least once over the half term.

Time has been allocated to subject areas in proportion to the time allocated on the normal school timetable. This means that the more lessons a student would have in a subject over a normal week, the more remote work they can expect from that subject over the half term.

Subjects will be released one per day (except during the weeks of 14th April and 4th May, both of which are only working four days long). This is to help students spread their work over the week.

Subjects will release work in as a learning 'block' rather than as individual lessons. For **Years 7 & 8**, each learning block will be the equivalent of approximately four lessons' worth of work. For **Years 9 & 10**, a block will be roughly 6 lessons' worth of work. There is no expectation that students complete blocks all in one go. Every subject will set a deadline for submission at least a week after the block is issued. This gives students the flexibility to adapt their learning timetable to suit their home situation.

Principal: James Jackson
West Lakes Academy, Main Street, Egremont, Cumbria CA22 2DQ
Part of West Lakes Multi-Academy Trust

t: 01946 820356 e: contactus.wla@westlakesmat.org.uk w: www.westlakesacademy.org.uk

Week	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
14th April	English (Tues) Maths (Tues) Geography (Weds) Art (Thurs)	English (Tues) IT (Weds) MFL (Thurs) Science (Fri)	Geography/Hist (Tues) Arts (Tues) English (Weds) Maths (Thurs) Science (Fri)	Maths (Tues) Science (Tues) Open option (Weds) English (Thurs) MFL (Fri)
20th April	English (Mon) Maths (Tues) History (Weds) Science (Thurs) Textiles (Fri)	Art (Mon) English (Tues) Maths (Weds) Geography (Thurs)	MFL (Mon) Open option (Tues) English (Weds) Maths (Thurs) Science (Fri)	Maths (Mon) Science (Tues) Arts option (Weds) English (Thurs) Geog/Hist (Fri)
27th April	Drama (Mon) Maths (Tues) MFL (Weds) Science (Thurs)	Science (Mon) English (Tues) Maths (Weds) Textiles (Thurs) History (Fri)	Geography/Hist (Mon) Arts (Tues) English (Weds) Maths (Thurs) Science (Fri)	Maths (Mon) Science (Tues) Open option (Weds) English (Thurs) MFL (Fri)
4th May	English (Mon) Geography (Weds) Science (Thurs) Engineered Products (Thurs)	Science (Mon) Drama (Tues) Maths (Weds) MFL (Thurs)	MFL (Mon) Open option (Tues) English (Weds) Maths (Thurs) Science (Thurs)	Maths (Mon) Science (Tues) Arts option (Weds) English (Thurs) Geog/Hist (Thurs)
11th May	Maths (Tues) History (Weds) Food (Thurs) Music (Fri)	Science (Mon) English (Tues) Engineered Products (Weds) Geography (Thurs)	Geography/Hist (Mon) Arts (Tues) English (Weds) Maths (Thurs) Science (Fri)	Maths (Mon) Science (Tues) Open option (Weds) English (Thurs) MFL (Fri)
18th May	English (Mon) IT (Tues) MFL (Weds) Science (Thurs)	Food (Mon) Music (Tues) Maths (Weds) History (Fri)	MFL (Mon) Open option (Tues) English (Weds) Maths (Thurs) Science (Fri)	Maths (Mon) Science (Tues) Arts option (Weds) English (Thurs) Geog/Hist (Fri)

For KS3 and KS4 classes, a **weekly well-being task**, incorporating aspects of RE, PD and core PE will be set for all students.

Students in **Year 12** will continue to follow the full curriculum they would have access to in school. This is important because they need to cover all content in time for the examinations at the end of their courses.

Students in **Years 11 and 13** will receive work that will help them to prepare for the next stage of their education. Mr Simpson will write to parents of these children separately to explain the form this will take.

Access to work

To help students to understand the tasks being set, the following steps will be taken:

- Each block of learning will start with tasks designed to recap prior learning. Students will have encountered this content in lessons before so should be able to access these tasks independently. We know that recapping learning helps students to remember information for longer and to recall it more easily (as shared with you in a letter earlier this year) and so these recap tasks will help to strengthen students' prior learning.
- New knowledge will be 'taught' via video clips and scaffolded print resources designed to support students in accessing and understanding new material. Students can, if needed, ask questions of their teachers via Google Classroom.
- All subjects will set regular low-stakes quizzes and feedback tasks. These will enable students to self-assess their learning and make any corrections needed. They will also allow teachers to see how well the material delivered is understood by students, enabling them to give further support as needed. We know that tests of this kind also help students to build stronger memories of the content covered so quizzing students in this way will help to support their learning.

We will continue to set all home learning tasks on Google Classroom.

Timetable

Before the Easter break, we shared a suggested daily timetable for students. We still think that the structure this timetable provides is helpful in assisting students to manage their learning each day and to maintain some normality in their routine. Please be assured, however, that this is only a suggested structure for each day and that we understand that you may need to modify this to suit your home situation.

Thank you once again for your support as we continue to provide home learning to your child(ren) and to develop the most effective means of doing this. If you have any feedback on how things are going over the course of this half term, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We will, of course, be reviewing the success of our new home learning strategy as the term goes on and will make further changes to support students' learning as necessary.

Yours faithfully



Abby Deeks
Vice Principal