

30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

To: Parents and Carers of Year 12 Students

Dear Parent/Carer

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

I know that a number of Year 12 students have found the volume of work hard to manage and have asked for more structure from the academy in terms on how work is released. In response to this feedback, Year 12 students' learning will now be structured and organised in the same way as that for students in other year groups.

**Home learning for Year 12 will now be set as follows:**

Subjects will release work in as a learning 'block' rather than as individual lessons. Each subject will release approximately eight hours' worth of work per week. In some subjects, this will be split across two shorter blocks, in some it will come as one big block.

Learning blocks will be released on a weekly rota as detailed below. The rota means that the majority of students will receive a maximum of one subject learning block per day. We hope that this will help students to spread their workload over the week.

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.

Students are free to create a study timetable for themselves and interleave their subjects if they wish to do so. A short video giving students some guidance on how to do this is available on our website: <http://www.westlakesacademy.org.uk/covid-19-support-and-home-learning/>

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Geography History Art Applied Science Performing Arts Spanish Further Maths	Maths Sociology Core Maths	Physics English Language Sport	Chemistry English Literature Design Technology Health & Social Care	Biology Business

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.

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## 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.

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**

