

02nd January 2021

To: Parents and Carers

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy new year.

You'll have seen from Mr Jackson's letter last week that remote learning will be taking place for all year groups from Tuesday 5th January. This letter contains further information on what remote learning will be provided, when it will be available, and how students should access this.

When will remote learning be available to my child?

Remote teaching will commence for all year groups on Tuesday 5th January.

Remote teaching will follow the same timetable as the normal academy day. Students will need to register via EduLink before 8.40am and each lesson will be released in line with the students' normal timetable for that day. Please see the attached guidance on how to register via EduLink if you have not done this before.

Learning content provided for each lesson will be designed to take roughly the same amount of time to complete as a normal timetabled lesson (100 minutes). If students find they are getting through the work too quickly, they should check they have followed all instructions thoroughly and then get in touch with their class teacher. If students find work is taking too long, they should let their class teacher know. Over the course of each day, students can expect to receive approximately four-five hours of remote work. This is in line with government guidelines.

How will my child access their work?

All work will be set on EduLink. This enables you, as well as your child, to see what work is being set.

The majority of lesson work will also be shared on Google Classroom. This is a platform that students are familiar with using and that enables teachers to share resources and detailed instructions for lessons in an accessible way.

Teachers will deliver lesson materials in the most effective way for their subject area. This could include:

- live online lessons (e.g. through Google Meet or YouTube)
- recorded lessons
- links to online resources (e.g. Hegarty Maths or Oak Academy)
- links to electronic resources that students have on their iPads (e.g. ActiveLearn)
- worksheets and PowerPoint slides shared via Google Classroom
- online quizzes and assessments (e.g. through Quizizz)

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Teachers will set clear deadlines for the completion of work and will follow up with students if these deadlines are not met.

What will lessons consist of?

Lessons will be planned to provide as little disruption as possible to students' learning. Wherever possible, they will follow the same curriculum as they would have in the academy. Where it is not possible to deliver the same curriculum (for example, where there are practical aspects of delivery that require specialist equipment) teachers will plan lessons to ensure all learning content is relevant and continues to build towards each students' learning goals in a structured and progressive way.

As students will be covering their usual planned curriculum, it is important that they complete all work to the best of their ability, as they would in the academy.

How can parents/carers help?

The best ways that you can help your child with their home learning are the most simple:

- talk to them about their work
- provide a quiet place with a desk or table for them to work at
- encourage them to stick to the timings of the academy day (and not let work mount up)
- encourage them to take pride in their work
- make sure they take a screen break and lunch and morning break time
- make sure they have a healthy lunch
- support them in meeting the deadlines for completion and return of work

What if my child doesn't have access to a computer?

The academy will support you with this as best we can. If your child does not have an iPad and does not have access to a device at home, please let us know. Likewise, if you do not have internet access at home, please let us know and we will do what we can to help.

Will my child receive SEN support?

If your child has access to SEN provision within the academy, we will do our best to provide this support with remote learning. If your child has an LSA, they will be in touch to discuss the best way of achieving this. Students accessing hub provision will have access to face-to-face LSA support.

When can my child return to face-to-face teaching?

It is our intention, in line with government guidance, that students return to the academy for face-to-face teaching on the following dates. This may, of course, change following any updates to government guidance.

Year 13 – Tuesday 12th January

Year 12 – Monday 18th January

Year 11 – Tuesday 12th January

Year 10 – Monday 18th January

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Year 9 – Monday 18th January

Year 8 – Monday 18th January

Year 7 – Monday 18th January

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, they must not return to the academy until 10 days from the date of the positive test.

On the date that face-to-face teaching resumes for your child, remote teaching will only be available to those students self-isolating following a positive test result, those who have been traced as a close contact of a positive case, those self-isolating due to a confirmed positive case in their household, those who are displaying symptoms of coronavirus and awaiting test results or those with a household member displaying coronavirus symptoms for whom a test result has not yet been received. As the academy's testing procedures are developed the above guidance may change but we'll keep you informed of any changes.

Further guidance on our academy's approach to remote teaching and learning can be found here, including an information video for students: <http://www.westlakesacademy.org.uk/covid-19-support-and-home-learning/>

I hope that you find this information helpful. Please do get in touch if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully,



Abby Deeks
Vice Principal

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