
Rob Pavey, Headteacher

07 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of all students,

Online learning

All lessons for all year groups should be running from today, via Google Classrooms, and according to the normal timetable. This includes tutor time. If in doubt, the how-to guides and the list of Google Classroom codes can still be found on the school website. Please email or ring your year team if you have any difficulties.

All students should check the appropriate Google Classroom at the start of every lesson. We are expecting every lesson to be live (see below), so students should join the Google Meet with their **camera on** and their **microphone muted**.

In some circumstances (illness, technical problems, internet outage etc.) a teacher may not be able to teach live, in which case instructions will be posted in the Google Classroom. Many teachers will also leave an 'in case of absence' assignment which can be done in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Lessons will start with a live register, and will then mainly continue live. Most lessons will contain ample opportunity for students to do independent work, which will need to be submitted or shown at the end of the lesson. There might be a short Google Quiz instead of extended writing. In some cases, a teacher may take the register and then set students off with a longer piece of work, in which case, they will probably be available on the Google Meet for questions.

Coming to school

School remains open for those that need it, including key workers, vulnerable children or those with connectivity difficulties. Please let us know if you need to come in by contacting your year team or (better) filling in this form: <https://forms.gle/K9otRg2MAiKd5Zdp6>

Lateral flow tests

All students (and staff) will be able to have a lateral flow test on arrival; parental consent is

contained on the form above, if parents haven't already done so. These are optional, and are not perfect, but may help reassure students and parents about the safety of coming to school.

Attendance

We will be marking registers as normal, and absence from lessons will be followed up by year teams, and may involve home visits, or requiring students to come into school if they are not engaging from home.

Homework

5 hours on a screen is more than enough for any child. We will therefore not set additional, out-of-school hours work (previously known as 'homework') unless it is for an exam year or Sixth Form (things that don't involve screens, such as cooking or instrumental lessons, are a bit different). Therefore:

- Yr7 - 9: no homework (but plenty of opportunity to do independent work, and to show it, during normal scheduled lesson time).
- Yr10: homework / independent assignments for RE GCSE and BTECs only
- Yr11: additional assignments will be set, especially if they lead towards an evidence base for awarding a grade (lots more detail on this to come; it is unclear at the minute).
- Sixth Form: independent work assigned in the normal way and in the normal quantity (they have free periods during the school day anyway).

Timings of the school day

Initially, we are going to stick to the normal times that students are used to. I am aware that the split lunchtime may well be annoying for parents who have children in different year groups, but we have to balance that against the extra disruption to familiar routines. I will send out a **survey in next Thursday's leadership email** in which we will gauge reaction to the first full week's remote learning. If the majority of parents are in favour of a change, we will bring in the change to the times of the day from Monday 18 January.

We will also end each lesson 5 minutes early to allow a bit of a break before joining the next class.

Laptops

If you need to borrow a device for your child to be able to access lessons, please get in touch with your year team, and we will deliver a loan device. Unfortunately, the large order of 450 Chromebooks we placed back in October is still delayed due to global supply problems, and we do not have an update on when it will arrive.

Free data

Please fill in the survey linked on the main email to request free data for your child's mobile device.

You are eligible if you do not have fixed broadband and you are going to struggle with the cost of buying extra data bundles. Please be aware that there are limits to this offer, and your mobile provider may or may not come good on this. Here is more information:

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/guide-to-collecting-mobile-information/telling-about-offer>

You need to read the official privacy statement before submitting the form.

Free School Meals

Please see [yesterday's letter from Miss Hussain](#) about the availability of food parcels instead of Free School Meals. Vouchers may resume at some point, but we don't yet know when.

If your income has dropped recently, you may now be eligible for Free School Meals. Please do apply: it will help your child and it will help the school. Responses come pretty quickly, but unfortunately, Oxfordshire still requires a paper form to be filled in, which is available from reception.

It is also worth keeping Oxford Mutual Aid in mind if you are struggling, as they can provide a range of assistance: <https://oxfordmutualaid.org/>

New exercise books

Many students will be coming to the end of their exercise books. We will be handing out new exercise books in the open air next Monday between 3.30 and 4.30 by the Community Hall (to the left of reception). No need to tell us in advance; just turn up, collect, and go straight home, remembering not to gather in groups.

Kind regards

Rob Pavey
Headteacher