



2 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Teaching and Learning update – remote learning January 2021**

Happy New Year to you all! As we begin our new term with remote teaching and learning, I want to highlight some changes to our expectations. Further details can be found on our website, but the key changes are:

- 1. Students must have their cameras turned ON during video lessons.** They can blur their backgrounds to maintain privacy. They must be appropriately dressed.

The reason for this change is that teachers were finding it extremely hard to communicate with the class when they could not see their students.

- 2. ALL lessons will be video lessons.**

These will be delivered through Google Meet and students must use their SCHOOL Gmail account to access the lessons. Registers will be taken at the start of each lesson and parents will be informed if their child does not attend.

The reason for this change is because students gave feedback saying that their levels of motivation were higher if they had video lessons to attend. It helped them organise their day better and meant that they stuck to their timetable.

[Click to read more information about the remote learning provision](#)

## **Remote learning - what to expect and what to do to support your child**

- \* Students will start every lesson on their timetable with a register taken by the teacher over video link. **All cameras must be turned on.** This will reassure teachers that their students are ready to learn and ensure that students know what they have to work on for the next 45 minutes.
- \* Instructions about how to sign in to the video lessons will be set on Class Charts. All video lessons will take place through Google Meet. Students will need to sign in with their SCHOOL GMAIL account. Requests to join the lesson from any other email addresses will not be granted access. This ensures that only confirmed members of our school community have access to the lessons.
- \* Instructions about independent work will be set on Class Charts. Parents are able to see everything that is posted on Class Charts.
- \* Sometimes, once the register has been taken and the teacher has explained the work, the students will be expected to turn off their mics and cameras but remain in the call. They will get on with work

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independently, though the teacher will still be present in the Google Classroom and available to answer questions through the Google Meet Chat.

\* Other times, the teacher will continue to deliver a direct instruction video lesson for up to 45 minutes. Students can expect to have at least 1 lesson like this per subject, per week and often more.

\* We are reducing our usual 55 minute lessons to 45 minutes to allow students and staff to get up and move around between lessons.

\* Students will submit work to be marked by the teacher through the Google Classroom. This may require a simple photo to be uploaded as proof of the work they have done or a whole typed document to be uploaded for detailed marking.

\* During the lesson, students should have their cameras turned on, but their mics muted, only turning them on to ask or answer a question. NB This is different to previous advice. It has changed because teachers were not able to communicate effectively with students whose cameras were turned off and the sense of collegiate learning within the class was lost.

\* During the video lesson, students can ask questions through the chat box

## **TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS**

*Make sure your child gets up and has breakfast at the usual time.*

Take a look on Class Charts at the work that has been set and talk through the list with your child at the start of the day.

*Make sure that your child follows their school timetable and takes break and lunch at the usual time. They will have a copy of their timetable, but you can also see it on Edulink.*

Your child needs a space to work with their laptop / computer / device. They will also need their exercise books and writing equipment.

*Make sure that they are not being distracted from their lessons by other communications on their phone.*

Encourage your child to move and stretch between lessons

*Remember, you are not expected to become teachers! Share the load (and nagging!) between any adults at home so that expectations to engage are shared and reinforced.*

Distinguish work time from non-work time. Ask your child to pack away after "school" and distinguish between school time and weekends.

*Keep praising your child and encourage other family members to do so too.*

We appreciate your support and acknowledge that this may be a challenging time for some families. Rest assured that all the teachers at Tewkesbury School will do their best to ensure that any negative impact of this isolation period on your child's learning and progress is minimised.

Please contact me if you have any queries about remote learning this week.

Yours faithfully

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