

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Remote learning

I am writing to you to outline how our remote learning offer will work during this period. Your child(ren) should see that our online provision has changed dramatically since March. We have utilised educational research, as well as the views and experiences of both students and teachers to form this model.

Our remote learning model is based on the characteristics of good teaching and learning that takes place in our classrooms:

- ensuring students receive clear explanations
- supporting students' growth in confidence with new concepts and skills through scaffolded practice
- ensuring students have experience of applying new knowledge or skills
- enabling students to receive feedback on how to progress

How we envisage this working in practice

Students should follow their usual school timetable and will be set 5 lessons a day as well as tutor time activities. This will equate to at least 4 hours worth of work a day, but may take students up to 5 hours to complete. Curriculums will follow the intended schemes of work that they had been planning for the Spring term and these have been adapted for remote learning.

All lessons are available on Google Classroom by 8am each morning so as to allow students to work at the time that best suits them and your household. We encourage students to complete their lessons at the time they would usually have these in the day so that they can get help, ask questions and receive feedback from their teachers and other students within their class who will be online via google classroom (through tasks, classroom stream and chat function) and email.

If students would like to continue their learning for a topic, these additional resources are available for them to access:

- BBC - From Monday 11th January, BBC2 will be showing at least 2 hours a day of programmes to support secondary education, alongside BBCBitesize daily offerings on the red button and iplayer
- Oak National Academy - <https://classroom.thenational.academy/>
- BBC bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/secondary>

The government has the expectation that we should "provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high quality curriculum resources or videos." Our curriculum departments have developed high quality teaching resources which provide clear explanations to students to introduce the learning for that lesson. These may include videos from other providers, links to websites as well as voiceovers and videos recorded by Wildern staff. Students then have tasks to complete that will allow them to put this learning into practice and these need to be 'handed in' via the

Google Classroom website. Students can contact their teachers via Google Classroom for help and guidance throughout the day and will receive feedback on their work.

Feedback may take many forms:

- a video or audio commentary by the teacher about the student's work
- written feedback via Google classroom
- sharing exemplar work in the class page on Google Classroom
- comments and annotations on a student's work in google documents/sheets/slides
- self-marking quizzes which provide immediate feedback to a student
- the provision of model answers in lesson resources for reflection purposes
- additional links or tasks to apply learning to, deepen understanding and move learning forward
- whole class feedback through planned and targeted 'feed forward' lessons or tasks based on class needs

Students acting on the feedback they receive is pivotal in the learning process and this is one of the areas that can make the biggest difference in developing students' skills, knowledge and understanding.

Other schools provision

We are aware that some schools in the local area are offering live lessons for their students.

Whilst 'live' sounds impressive, it seems that there are many more concerns regarding what it actually means in practice. From talking to others we have found that the following situations are not conducive for successful learning:

- schools are operating with as many as 130 students in one live lesson
- in order to safeguard students and staff, student cameras need to be turned off (unless an adult can be in the room at all times during the lesson) and therefore students are logging on and then not engaging as the teacher cannot see what they are doing
- there is no feedback provided as students are muted to ensure there isn't audio feedback and very few students use the raise hand function
- students who miss the lesson, miss out on the learning
- the learning goes too slowly/too quickly and students cannot work at their own pace
- concerns have been raised about poor behaviour of students in these lessons and disruptions to the learning

Therefore we feel that our curriculum offer for remote learning will be more beneficial for our students.

There are many advantages to our asynchronous approach;

- students can access all lesson resources at a time that suits them and their family which supports households who are sharing devices or bandwidth
- students can pause, rewind, replay explanations and watch/listen to these at their own pace or at a later date if required
- students are able to get help from teachers and students who are working at the same time as them, receive feedback and act on this at a later time
- students still get to see and hear their teachers on screen, collaborate with their peers on learning tasks and receive feedback to move their learning forward

Throughout this period of remote learning our teachers are working from home for the majority of the week, some may have their own children to look after throughout the day as well supporting the learning of their classes and when in school, they are rota'd to supervise the vulnerable and key worker students. They are fully committed to providing quality remote learning with a blend of explanatory resources, tasks and feedback.

Device and access issues

The Department for Education has established a pilot offer to increase the data offer for use on mobile devices. This is particularly helpful for Pay as You Go customers without a fixed Broadband connection. We will be sending out further information about this shortly.

You can also access Google classroom via Playstation and Xbox consoles using the browser and then going to Google.com and signing in. If your child does not have access to a device or it has broken, please contact us as we may be able to help.

We thank you for your continued support at this challenging time and hope your child has shared with you some of the learning they have been completing and the feedback they have already received. We are working in partnership with you as parents and value your support with helping to ensure your child is logging on and engaging with their lessons set each day, even if your view of what these lessons should look like does not match our provision. We will also be monitoring the engagement levels of our students and contacting parents if there are any concerns about this so that you are aware too.

As you would expect over the coming weeks, we will be constantly reviewing and fine tuning our remote learning provision to ensure that it is the standard of (if not better than) face to face classroom lessons and we will be in touch soon with further updates.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Cowan
Deputy Headteacher