



Remote education during staggered re-opening letter 4.1.21

4 January 2021

Dear parent/carer.

Clearly, this is not the start to the new term for which any of us had hoped. As of this morning, almost everything about the government's plans for reopening schools remains under review. It is therefore very difficult for those of us running schools to communicate our plans with the conviction you would expect.

There are also very significant logistical challenges to operating schools under quasi-Lockdown conditions. Specifically, many of my colleagues will be working from home under conditions now all-too familiar to parents, i.e. juggling the demands of work and childcare.

For these reasons, I want to be fully transparent about the guidance we have given to teachers regarding the level of provision they should be offering at different points in this staggered re-opening. The basic picture is of online schooling that -- in the government's official language -- "prioritises the needs of examination classes".

In practice, this means that while we will aim for a fully 'live' timetable for all students, that is likely to take longer to achieve for students in the lower years of the school than for older students. While this will no doubt disappoint many parents, I must stress that this prioritisation arises directly from government guidance and that we aim to exceed this guidance wherever possible.

The table below should provide a broad guide to what to expect. In all cases, students will continue to study their 'real' school curriculum, meaning that all work set should be regarded as important. The dates reflect current government guidance. I'm afraid that seems very likely to change in the coming days and weeks as the government reviews the situation in the worst-affected areas.

cont'd.

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| Year | w/c 4 Jan | w/c 11 Jan | w/c 18 Jan |
|---------|---|--|-------------------|
| 11 | Live lessons (via Google Classroom) | In-school lessons | In-school lessons |
| 10 | Live lessons where possible (via Google Classroom) | Live lessons (via Google Classroom) | In-school lessons |
| 9, 8, 7 | High quality, relevant third-party resources, e.g. Oak Academy, Hegarty Maths, Tassomai, etc. Teacher-generated resources Live lessons where possible | Teacher-generated resources Live lessons where possible | In-school lessons |

I would also like to thank the many parents who have sent messages of support to me and to my colleagues at this challenging time. They are greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Mr. A. Crossman
Headteacher