

26th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I would like to send my very best wishes to you and your families. I hope you are all happy and healthy.

Secondly, I would like to thank you for all your hard work in supporting our pupils to continue with their remote learning. The partnership between school and home has never been as important in helping our pupils to keep going, to help them have some routine in their day and to engage them in their education. There has been so much amazing work from our pupils and we have tried to praise and share as much as we can through our Padlets, our video 'shout outs' and by identifying pupils as "Home Learning Heroes" over social media.

As we approach the last few weeks of term, I would like to encourage pupils to stay energised with their remote learning and to keep doing the best they can. The remote learning that is taking place is very important in helping us all when we return to a more normal way of learning in school.

To further support this, we have taken three decisions to help our pupils. Although all subject areas plan their own curriculum, we have asked our teachers to follow the following three principles when setting new tasks:

1. Provide a learning experience of no more than 30 minutes.

This should allow our pupils to complete tasks and reduce anxiety about tasks building up. It should allow learning to be in more 'bitesize' chunks and therefore make learning easier. We want to ensure that no one is spending more than three hours per day on their learning.

2. Limit the number of tasks set for each subject to two per week for Year 9 and 10 pupils. Core subjects (Maths, English and Science) will limit to two tasks per week for Years 7 and 8 pupils, whilst other subjects will set one task per week for Years 7 and 8 pupils. This should ensure a maximum of 15 hours of learning per week.

3. Set a deadline one week in advance of when the task is set to help pupils manage their time better.

You may have noticed these changes already coming into effect in some subjects and will see this rolling out more widely in the remaining weeks of term. I would like to encourage everyone that they can keep learning and they can start with the more recent tasks if they are looking to get going again. There are no sanctions for work not done – we just want to help our pupils to keep their learning from home going.

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In addition to this, and in planning for what may happen in September, many teachers are exploring a range of ways of further energising remote learning. Over the last week, there have been several teachers using Zoom to host live events such as debates or drop in sessions, so that pupils can ask questions and seek feedback directly from a teacher. Other teachers are working on video tutorials to support learning. We have several staff who have trialled the use of Google Meet and Microsoft Teams to create a more "live experience". This is all in addition to the continued development of how we use the VLE. Please also remember that we can provide paper based activities if you do not have access to technology or the internet. Contact your child's Head of Year if this will help you.

We have all had to work together in very difficult circumstances and I welcome any feedback on remote learning from you and your child. If you would like to share your experiences with me in more detail, please email me at cwilliamson@hollingworthacademy.co.uk

Finally, and most importantly, the wellbeing of your children is our main priority and we understand that everyone has had a different experience throughout the last few months. Everyone at our school wants to support our young people in the best way that we can and if you have any concerns, please get in touch with us.

Sending very best wishes.

Yours faithfully

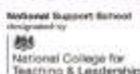


Mr C Williamson
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RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY



RESILIENCE



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