

5th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 10 Distance Learning

I hope you and your family are safe and well. During these uncertain times, we want to support each student and family as best we can, and although learning now looks very different to the usual school lessons, we believe students can make good progress working independently.

Teachers are working hard to provide lessons and materials for your child to complete, and most of this work can be accessed on Microsoft Teams where teachers can also give feedback on the work uploaded. As your child is in Year 10 and will sit their GCSE exams next year, it is crucial that we work together to support them in engaging with this work so that they do well next year. Many students in Year 10 are already working hard at home, but we want this to be every student.

As teachers with children ourselves, we know how hard it is for parents to support their children with their learning, especially as many are still working or have other commitments on top. However, we would like to share some tips with you so that you can engage your child in this important learning:

- It works well if students stick to their normal timetable and complete the work set for those lessons that day
- Regular breaks from learning make it all more manageable
- It makes a big difference if parents look at their work (perhaps later in the day, if they are working), and praise them for getting it done
- Make allowances – it is so much harder for students to work alone at home
- Encourage your child to contact their teacher or phone a friend if they don't understand the work, or they are stuck
- Remind your child that they will be pleased they stayed on top of their work when they come back to school, and that their teachers will help them catch up with anything they didn't understand
- Give them a 'reward' to work towards e.g. watching a film or having relaxation time away from schoolwork and chores when they have completed their work

If your child hasn't yet engaged with the work, you could start small by suggesting they complete one lesson a day, then increasing it so that they build up their confidence and motivation.

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Although we would prefer students to complete the work set on Microsoft Teams, there are additional resources that have been sent home in a work pack. If students would like to complete these instead, that's fine and much better than not completing work at all. There are also more resources on our school website.

Thank you in advance for supporting the academy, and more importantly, your child's learning during these difficult times. I hope you will find this information supportive and useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any advice.

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Lafferty

Year 10 Achievement Leader

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