

11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Families,

**Re: COVID-19 Update, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020: Online Home Learning Survey Results and great news, Microsoft Teams is now set up!**

Thank you to all of our families who were able to complete the online learning survey we sent out on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020. It has provided us with some valuable information which I have fed back to our staff.

The main points from the survey are as follows:

**General:**

- 131 responses received
- Most respondents have children in years 7, 8 and 10.
- Students are accessing work mainly by mobile phone (90%) and laptops/PC (70%)
- Majority, (71%) accessing the work every day, although this may change depending on circumstances or mood.
- 55% found the accessibility of the work varied. 29% fair and 12% difficult
- 75% said that Maths and English were the easiest to access/understand, closely followed by Science and History.
- MFL was the most difficult to access because it is in a different language
- Too many messages on SMHW which makes it overwhelming when trying to work out what HW to do as well.
- Many families commented that they are finding it difficult to help their children, even though they really want to!

**What made the home learning easy to access/understand by subjects:**

- Instructions were clear and explained well
- No 'waffle'/heavy amounts of text
- Bullet point instructions
- Layout was easy to follow
- Work only set once a week
- Online work such as Kahoot and Seneca
- Contact from the teacher to see how the student was doing
- Emails from the teacher were provided on the work itself

**What made the home learning difficult to access/understand:**

- Too many different websites/links/attachments for one piece of work
- Website links given not working
- Multiple teachers setting work for one subject – not sure what needs to be done
- Some work too difficult for a non-specialist
- Complicated questions
- Too much text
- Contact information not available
- Format of some files on a mobile phone – the text overlaps
- Pressure of completing work
- No printer at home/ printer out of ink

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### Main suggestions from families:

- A timeframe for how long the piece of work should take
- Online video interaction with the teacher
- Tutorial type videos

The points above only capture the reoccurring themes from the 131 responses we had and we will try our best to find a way that will satisfy each family with regards to online learning. What one family found useful was another family's nightmare in some cases! However, what we do want to reinforce is that we understand that there are some families who are going through a very tough time at the moment, whether it be because family members are very ill, whether jobs are at risk or you have been in isolation for the majority of last few weeks and it is really impacting on you. We will continue setting work for your children and we will ask if there is anything we can do to help but please do not feel that we are pressuring you and your family.

Microsoft Teams has now been set up for all classes! This means that we will be able to set up video sessions with our students as well as staff. As you will be aware, staff have been using MS Teams over the last few weeks to learn how to use it. The next stage is for some of our staff to carry out some test sessions with their year 10 classes. If this goes smoothly, we will be rolling this out to the rest of our year groups. More information to follow for our year 10s and we will update you with how it goes once we have had the trial! I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to our IT team, the T&W IT team and Mr Dearlove who has also been helping out!

With all good wishes,



Krissi Carter  
Principal



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