



5th January 2021

Theale Green School

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Dear Parent / Carer

As you will be aware, yesterday evening the Prime Minister announced that we will enter a new COVID19 lockdown period, which came into force at midnight. The Government has issued full Stay at Home guidance. Following this announcement, we are now able to share with you our plans for delivering Remote Learning in line with the most up to date government guidance for schools received yesterday. As a school, our remote learning plan does clearly follow the Department for Education guidance and we will offer meaningful, timely and ambitious lessons and learning for all students.

This letter outlines the updated remote learning plan for Theale Green School based on the current advice from the Department for Education. As I am sure you can appreciate, this has been thought through to ensure we can offer the best education to all our learners.

How will my child access the remote work?

We will continue to utilise the very successful platform of Show My Homework. Your child can access this, as usual, using their school email address and password by clicking "sign in with Office 365". All remote home learning, live lesson links and resources will be set, by 8am at the latest, through the Show my Homework application and be in the following format:

Subject – Class Code – Date – Period

For example, Geography – 10A/GG1 – 06/01 – Period 2

They will be clearly set as Classwork and the due date will match the date of the lesson.

What will the remote learning look like?

The plan below outlines the stages for the first weeks of remote learning. The school has been encouraged, by the Department for Education, to make use of the Oak National Academy and other shared national resources. Alongside these, we will also use voice over presentations and additional learning resources. Specific subjects may make use of online curriculum sites such as MyMaths and Seneca learning. Teachers may direct you to these resources through Show My Homework.

Week 1 - Wednesday 6th January to Friday 8th January

- All students will be at home from all year groups (*apart from children of parents who have allocated places for Key worker, vulnerable or children with an EHCP who will work in school*)
- Year 11 and Year 13 only to be offered live lessons through MS Teams or Zoom (practical based subjects and PSHE may offer learning in a different manner)



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 - Bicester Technology Studio
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 - UTC Heathrow
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-

- Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 lessons will have independent (remote) lessons and have resources shared via Show My Homework
- There will be tutor time resources available to all students, with pre-recorded assemblies from Year 11 and Year 13 on Wednesday 6th January
- Pre-recorded tutor session available for Year 7, 8 and 9 on Wednesday 6th January

Week 2 - Monday 11th to Friday 15th January

- Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 to be offered live lessons through MS Teams or Zoom (practical based subjects and PSHE may offer learning in a different manner)
- Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, lessons will have independent lessons and have resources shared via Show My Homework
- BTEC examinations for Year 12 Travel & Tourism and Year 13 Sport are still taking place in school (Mrs Badarello will communicate directly with parents / students)
- Pre-recorded assemblies for Year 10 and Year 12 on Monday 11th January

Week 3 onwards

- Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 will continue to be offered live lessons through MS Teams or Zoom
- Year 7, 8 and 9 will have a mixture of independent lessons and live lessons shared via Show My Homework

How will my child receive feedback?

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. Some activities may include answers; which children can use to self-assess; this is also the case with some online curriculum resources. Self-assessing work is a routine part of our class teaching and learning. For some lessons, students may be asked to complete their work on a Microsoft Class Notebook. They were shown how to use this in term 2. It will enable better feedback from teaching staff and a place to keep all their work. Teachers will also continue to give feedback through class live lessons and through self-assessment or online quizzes.

What times will be child be expected to work?

Every student will continue to follow their curriculum timetable, with a slight adjustment to the timings for the day. This is to enable all students to have a similar timetable as we no longer need to have separate times for separate Covid-19 bubbles. There may be times when students cannot access a lesson at that particular time, but all live lessons will be recorded and can be accessed at different times. However, where possible, we would like students to try to join live lessons and complete work in the given time.

8.45 to 9.00	Tutor Time
9.00 to 10.00	Lesson 1
10.00 to 11.00	Lesson 2
11.00 to 11.15	Break
11.15 to 12.15	Lesson 3
12.15 to 1.00	Lunch
1.00 to 2.00	Lesson 4
2.00 to 3.00	Lesson 5

How long will lessons last?

Guidance given to schools suggests a minimum of 4 hours work for secondary schools. Remote sessions will aim to have one hour of work set for students, but it is important that students aim to stick to the timetable to provide a flow and consistency to their day. We recognise that this will be a challenging time but we ask for your support in helping your child engage and complete the remote learning.

How will you check my child is engaging with work?

We are putting in place a robust and manageable system to provide regular phone calls to parents and carers to establish how well each student is doing with remote learning. Work that is completed by students may also be used by class teachers to help judge engagement. We will continue to award House Points, which you can see through the Parent Class Charts application. If a teacher does become concerned about a student's engagement, then we may ask the pastoral team to offer additional remote support.

What will live lessons look like?

As a school, we aim to offer live lesson to all key stage 4 and key stage 5 learners from the second week. These lessons will last around 40 minutes but will include some independent work to create an hour lesson (we are conscious of ensuring that neither staff nor students are seated for hours or looking at a screen for prolonged periods of time, hence the need to plan this way). This may mean live lessons are structured with an introduction and then a feedback session, or a 40-minute session with 20 minutes independent work afterwards. It is also worth noting, that there may be times when staff are required to supervise children of key or critical workers with in school, and thus will be unable to offer a live lesson. Instead, resources will be shared on the Show My Homework application.

Do I need to provide consent for live lessons?

There is no safeguarding requirement for parental consent for live lessons. We will ask students to have their microphones and cameras switched off during live lessons. For KS4 and KS5 lessons, the teachers may ask students to respond to questions and if students feel comfortable then they are able to use the microphone and camera. This will be clearly instructed by the class teacher who is presenting the live lesson.

What support is available for digital devices?

As a school, we wrote to all parents and carers last term to assess the situation with digital devices at home. I would like to remind you, that if your family does not have access to a device for the remote learning, please do get in touch by emailing Sandra Eaton on seaton@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk. We do have some Department for Education devices that can be loaned to families during this lockdown.

I wish you all the best for the coming weeks, and please do remember that as a community we are there to support each other. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor at any stage during the coming weeks.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Peter Taplin

Assistant Headteacher for Teaching & Learning