



Professionalism - Inclusion - Pedagogy - Curriculum

28th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with further updates regarding Public Exams this summer.

Firstly, I write to you as a father of two boys currently in Year 11. I appreciate how uncertain this situation makes you and your child feel and how difficult it can be to keep them focused and motivated whilst learning at home. So, do remind yourself what a great job you and your child are doing under such extraordinary circumstances.

So, the purpose of this letter is to give some further guidance for the coming weeks.

Home Learning

Your child should continue to follow their timetabled lessons, this does also include some exercise during P.E lessons. They are required to register at the start of the day.

Some of your child's lessons will be live lessons. A live lesson means the teacher will be on-line for some or all of the lesson to explain the learning, give some feedback and answer questions. The resources for each lesson are on Google Classroom and your child will also be advised to use other platforms such as Seneca, Educake or MyMaths. There are also some really good resources on BBC Bitesize and Oak National Academy which can easily be accessed online. Do also encourage your son/daughter to be reading every day.

As a parent, I appreciate it can be difficult at times to support with home-learning – especially subjects you are less familiar with – I struggle too. So, I would encourage regular discussion – get your child to explain and teach you, they could even make a powerpoint and deliver a lesson to you. This will help them remember what they have learnt and is also a good way for you to be reassured they have been studying.

In most cases your child should be completing their learning in exercise books. If you haven't collected them or need a new one or other materials do contact your child's Head of Year or come to my parent surgery (every Tuesday 9.30 – 11.00am at the Byron Street reception).

Only your child should access the online lessons and MUST not share any links outside of school. If this happens they will be blocked from the classroom. The normal school rules apply during lessons and every child must follow the 4BEs.

Submitting Work

Teachers will be asking at times for your child to submit work via Google Classroom. This may mean typed assignments/photos of work or completing a Google document.

Assessments

You are aware that similar to last year the school will be asked to submit Teacher Assessed Grades. The Government has stated they want to give students as long as possible to complete studies, assignments and assessments to determine the final grade.

The Government have also has spoken of the possibility of producing some tests that teachers can use as part of their assessments. This is unconfirmed and doesn't mean that your child will sit exams. So, whilst there is still much uncertainty it is really important that your child continues with their on-line learning. There are some very important assessments planned and further details will be circulated. The table shows when these will be happening.

For the assessments your child will be provided/can use some resources to help them. This is not an exam but part of an on-going assessment

WHEN	WHAT	SUBMITTING
February 22 nd – February 26 th	Your child will be assessed on the term's work from January to February half-term. For this assessment your child can use resources to help them provided by the teacher.	This will be a combination of Google Classroom and/or completing assignments which will need to be collected from school on Monday 22 nd February.
April 12 th – April 16 th	Your child will be assessed on the terms work from February to Easter	As above
May 17 th – May 28 th	We await further details from the Government but we are planning another assessment before submission	TBC

KEY QUESTIONS

How will teachers decide the final grade?

When submitting the final assessed grades teachers will consider your child's overall performance and not simply one assessment. It is also understood that your child has experienced significant disruption to their education since March 2020.

How will I be informed of my child's progress?

Before Christmas we sent out your child's PPE grade and AtL (attitude to learning) score. We will resend these. After the February and April assessments we will send you a report with:

- Current working at grade (taking all work into consideration)
- Attitude to learning (attendance to lessons/teacher assessment/completion of work)
- Predicted grade (based on overall performance at this point). Please note this may change, and the aim is to improve at the next assessment point.

What if my child is having problems accessing on-line learning?

Contact your child's Head of Year or attend the Parent Surgery on Tuesdays 9.30 – 11.00am

There is more than one sibling in the house and they are sharing one device, what can I do?

We have distributed a significant number of lap-tops but do have a small supply so again contact the school and we will do our best to help.

Our wifi access is not very good, can you help?

We do have some SIM cards to make available to you. Again, please contact the school. Every 6th Form student has access to free wifi from BT.

What will happen with practical subjects such as Art, Drama, Food and P.E?

Before Christmas your child completed practical assessments in drama, food and P.E, now they must keep up with the tasks set by teachers. Your child should have collected their art folder and there will be further opportunities to complete art work.

What will happen regarding 6th Form and college in September?

Currently we are working through the applications to our 6th Form in order to confirm offers this term. Your child should have completed applications for other colleges or 6th Forms by now. We do have a record of this but if you have concerns regarding your child's destination then contact Ms Begum: begumm@langdonpark.org or Mr Bulleyment: bulleymentg@langdonpark.org or you can come to my parent surgery. Again, we are here to help and ensure your child secures their preferred choice in September.

I am worried that my child has missed learning and may not be ready for A levels.

So, it is important your child keeps up with all their subjects for reasons explained. We will be expecting all students even after the teacher assessed grades, to keep studying English, Maths and Science.

In the summer term we will start to provide learning to your child in preparation for A level courses, these are called bridging units of study.

I am worried about my child's well-being as this is causing some anxiety. What can I do?

Please reinforce that your child, or yourself should try not to worry however, we understand completely that this is a difficult time. Some tips are:

- A. Remember we are here to support you all the way.
- B. Encourage your child to stick to a good routine i.e. follow the timetabled lessons and not work too late into the evening.
- C. Complete regular exercise activities and as a family spend quality time together.
- D. The school has access to free, online advice and support for students via the Kooth website and app. Encourage your child to use the services available via Kooth.
- E. On You Tube there are some really good mindfulness and relaxation techniques and sessions.
- F. Remind yourself that as a family you are coping with a worldwide pandemic. This is a really difficult time. You are doing brilliantly to get through this.
- G. Contact the school: we do have a support network and can offer sessions and support for your child's mental well-being.
- H. Do monitor their on-line use. It is important that whilst they are learning on-line that they are following the curriculum and remaining safe on-line.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Keeping my child safe on-line: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers-whose-children-are-using-social-media>

How to help with my child's well-being in lockdown: <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help-for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Mindfulness techniques in lockdown: <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/drugs-and-treatments/mindfulness/mindfulness-exercises-tips/>

Will there be a parents' evening?

Yes, the school is investing and trialling an online parents evening which will start after half-term.

What is meant by a live lesson and are all the lessons live?

Your child should be following their normal timetable and registering at the start of each day. In some of the lessons the teacher will be on-line with the class for some or all of the lesson. Usually this means the teacher will explain the tasks at the start and then return to the lesson to deal with any questions.

Some times the lesson might be a pre-recorded video to explain the learning and show demonstrations. Other times it may be resources available with tasks to complete. The important thing is your child follows their normal timetable.

What if I feel my child is struggling with the lessons?

Home learning is not ideal and you may feel your child is not keeping up with lessons. Firstly, reassure them as this is not an easy situation. Ask them to go back through the lesson resources. In Google Classroom your child can submit questions to the teacher. If you are increasingly worried about your child's progress then in the first instance contact your Head of Year or come to the Parent Surgery on Tuesdays.

What will happen if my child is not following their timetable or submitting work?

Each day teachers are recording attendance to lessons and reporting on engagement (handing in work). If a child is not engaging we will be making daily phone calls to find out why.

Should your child not be engaging with learning then we will ask that you send them to school.

Free School Meals

The weekly FSM voucher is emailed from a company called Edenred and you can download the voucher. Please check your emails carefully. If you do not qualify for FSM and might be struggling at this time then contact your Head of Year, come to the Parent Surgery or email safeguarding@langdonpark.org

Please also visit the Tower Hamlet website as this has details of local support:

https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/health_social_care/health_and_medical_advice/Coronavirus/Contact_us_for_help/Voluntary_and_community_organisations_that_can_help.aspx

Finally, I trust you are safe and well. Please keep on checking our website for any updates and be reassured we are here to help you when needed.

A hard copy of this letter will be sent out to you.

Very best wishes,

Mr. N. LANGHAM
HEADTEACHER