



Langdon
Park
School

Professionalism - Inclusion - Pedagogy - Curriculum

5th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I trust you are safe and well. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with updates and further guidance on home learning.

As a parent myself with two children in Year 11 I appreciate the difficulties of home schooling. Often, I struggle keeping my children engaged and supporting them with certain subjects. So, I do want to **congratulate** you as parents in saying it is an incredibly difficult time and an immense challenge for you but the fact you are managing this is to your credit.

It is so important that we keep going and your child keeps up with their learning every day. The government will be making a further announcement in early March regarding the reopening of schools. Whilst we all hope the children will be returning soon we also have to be very mindful that this may not be the case.

Each day we keep a record of your **child's attendance** to lessons and whether they are submitting work. The attendance records are reported to the Local Authority. If your child is not engaging with lessons we have or will be contacting you to find out why. This may mean that we request your child comes into school to complete learning supervised by staff. If there are other reasons such as access to a device then do let us know.

Please do keep checking the school website each day for updates and information. Do look at the **curriculum section** where you can find details of the schemes of learning for each subject by year group and ideas and recommendations for additional study.

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 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 I said, 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.

KEY QUESTIONS

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

Teachers have recorded latest Working at Grades along with attitude to learning and these are being sent to you. Next term we will be circulating details of the online parents' evenings when you can speak with the teachers.

We will be holding an evening for **Year 9** who are currently making their option choices.

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 Wi-Fi 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 Wi-Fi from BT.

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/>

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/lgnl/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