

1st June, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we commence Term 6, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for continuing to work with us to support your child to engage in and complete learning remotely at home. You will be aware that we published a timetable of "learning checks" across all subjects in Term 5, as we felt this would provide an opportunity for teachers to provide feedback to all students on the studies they have engaged in, and to inform teacher planning of subsequent learning experiences. It would also enable us to be in more regular contact in order to help motivate or support our learners.

I would like to outline how we will be facilitating remote learning in Term 6:

- **Most Term 6 lessons will be a consolidation of previous curriculum content, skills, prior learning and knowledge.**
- **The focus will be on preparing students for a return to school, whenever that may be.**
- **Students will complete a regular mini-test or quiz using Google Forms. This will be the platform to enable students to access feedback on their success and to inform next steps.**
- **All subjects will complete a learning check at least once per cycle (fortnightly)**
Cycle 1: 01 June – 12 June
Cycle 2: 15 June – 26 June
Cycle 3: 29 June - 10 July

Below is a more detailed outline of how we aim to provide continuity of learning at home in Term 6 of this protracted period of home learning:

Years 7 and 8

- Students will continue to have on-line learning set for them by curriculum teams.
- Students have been provided with an exercise book to complete any hard copy work across their subjects. If your child needs an additional exercise book, please contact the school to arrange collection. Work completed in this book will be shared, celebrated and rewarded using our House Point system with tutors in the first instance when students return to school.
- You are aware of our Accelerated Reader Programme and the benefits to our students to read on a regular basis. To maximise the benefit of this programme, students should read for 20 minutes every day. We will let you know in due course how we can arrange for the changing of books before the summer.

Year 9

- We have written to Year 9 parents and carers separately as we will be implementing a new programme of study based on their option choices.
- Week 1 - Year 9 students will have English, Maths and Science lessons only leading to a learning check at the end of the week. This will allow time for transition to their new subjects.
- Week 2 – Work for this week will be set by option subjects only. Students will not study English, Maths and Science during this week.
- Week 3 - Students will be issued with a new timetable which will run until the end of term.

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Years 10 and 12

- Subject teachers will continue to set work for students using Insight to outline the content of the work. In most subjects, teachers will continue to upload additional resources using GCSEPod and Google platforms such as Google Classrooms. We are working closely with our partner schools and I will write to you in due course to outline our plan to implement some face-to-face interaction alongside our existing remote learning.
- Students in Year 10 have also had the additional opportunity to engage in **GCSEPod** as we invested and launched this innovative online resource in Term 5. We are currently in the process of extending the usage of this software to Year 9 and parents and carers of students in this year group will receive more information shortly
- We will be evaluating the engagement levels of students over the next two weeks in order to help us identify those students who would most benefit from some face to face time in school.

Year 11

- We will continue to provide bridging work across all subjects for our students. We are available to provide careers guidance to support post-16 steps for all students.

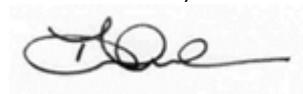
Year 13

- Students have been provided with bridging work for next steps into Higher Education, apprenticeships or their first career. It is crucial for students to continue developing their ability to be excellent communicators and develop a broad understanding of world affairs. These are important lifelong skills we endeavour to furnish our students with at this transition point into adult life, the world of work and university.

Finally, from talking to staff and looking at our available data, I am impressed with the engagement of the vast majority of our students. Our students have generally adapted well to a new way of working, but we are looking forward to welcoming them back when it is safe to do so. That is not the case at the moment, so I ask that you encourage your child to complete the remote learning and continue to provide us with feedback in the usual ways. This would not have been as positive without the support you are continuing to provide at home to facilitate this.

As our interactions change over the next few weeks, be assured that we will be putting measures in place to ensure the safety of staff and students. This will be reliant upon all of our community continuing to follow the social distancing requirements both in and out of school.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Anderson
Principal



<https://www.gcsepod.com/>

What is GCSEPod?

GCSEPod makes it easy to learn and revise wherever students are, on any device, and is particularly suited to remote learning. Through the GCSEPods, students will be supported to build knowledge in sequences, enabling the students to retain more knowledge to importantly recall it when they need to.

The Benefits of GCSEPod:

- Learning *and* assessment, anywhere, at any time
- Rich curriculum cover of all of our subjects mapped against exam preparation
- Content is rigorously Quality Assured by GCSE experts in the different subject fields, supported by a wealth of case studies from other schools where this intervention has had a demonstrable positive impact on GCSE outcomes
- Real time tracking and monitoring of student and teacher activity
- Assessment for learning, not just testing

A further update and guidance for students, parents and carers of Year 10 students will be provided at the beginning of Term 5 to ensure we can maximise the benefits of GCSEPod.