

Dear Parents and Carers,

We write to you after what we know has been a very unsettling and challenging time for us all. As a school, over the past couple of days, we have been working hard to prepare a support package for parents and students that allows learning to continue during this time of social distancing. We, like you, have been shaken by the extraordinary measures that have had to be put in place to keep us all safe. Moving forward, we will aim to be in contact as much as we can to update and support you and our wonderful students in the next couple of weeks / months.

Due to the closure of the school, students will now be expected to complete their learning at home. In order for this happen and to support parents we will aim to send you weekly letters which we hope will communicate key things you need to know and ideas to support families until we are given notice of the reopening of school.

This letter aims to set out information about Chorlton High's distance learning package which we have organised in the past few days. This information is also on our school website with links to online resources. It covers:

- Timetable expectations.
- Suggestions for the organisation of the day for your child working at home.
- Information about where learning will be set.
- Additional information about key areas that students can access to further their learning.
- A weekly passion project that can be completed by students.
- Any useful email accounts you may need over the coming weeks.
- Advice available on wellbeing and support.
- Digital safety messages.
- Free school meal advice.

- **Timetable expectations:**

Students should follow their personal timetable over the course of the week to ensure that all learning assigned is completed. Parents will receive the timetable with a physical copy of this letter over the coming week and it is available on the School Gateway app.

- **Suggestions for the organisation of the day for your child working at home**

In terms of the organisation of the school day, it is advisable that students continue with clear routines. It is important that students get up and dressed ready to start work by an agreed time. The school recommends that students complete around 4-5 hours of focused learning linked to their timetabled subjects during the course of each day. In terms of spreading out the 4-5 hours, we recommend that parents discuss and agree a timetable for each day. This should help establish a routine and hopefully support families.

The following timetable could be a starting point for the discussion. We hope that this will support parents to establish a way of working that can become a routine. This will obviously need to be tailored to the needs of the family.

**Daily timetable – Monday to Friday**

Subject 1 – 45 minutes to 1 hour

10-minute break

Subject 2 – 45 minutes to 1 hour

10-minute break

Subject 3 – 45 minutes to 1 hour

30-minute break

Subject 4 – 45 minutes to 1 hour

10-minute break

Subject 5 – 45 minutes to 1 hour

- **Information about where learning will be set:**

**All learning for each subject will be set on Doodle via department areas.**

The learning set will be a mixture of online and offline tasks that do not require a computer. For offline tasks a computer will only be required to find out what the task is. You will find all the websites needed using the following links:

- Doodle: <https://www.doodlelearn.co.uk/app/login>
- GCSE pod: <https://www.gcsepod.com/>
- Seneca: <https://www.senecalearning.com/>
- BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- Maths Watch: <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>
- Borrow Box: [https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200062/libraries/6657/download\\_books\\_magazines\\_and\\_courses/1](https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200062/libraries/6657/download_books_magazines_and_courses/1)
- **Additional information about key areas that students can access to further their learning** The school website has a number of learning opportunities for students. <https://www.chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk/student-life/chs-solutions>
- **A weekly passion project that can be completed by students:**

Each week, as part of this letter, we will highlight a weekly passion project your child can get involved in. This project is not compulsory, however on our return to school we will be spending some time looking at what students have completed and arranging rewards for those projects that stand out. They can complete the project each week and keep it safe so that they are able to hand it into their form tutor when they return. Information about next week's projects can be found below:

### **Year 7 and 8: "Back In The Day..."**

Students have been working hard towards their pastoral curriculum throughout the year and we are keen to give them the opportunity to continue towards finishing their Year journey. Year 7 and Year 8 can work towards their pastoral badges by developing a communications piece, either a newspaper, magazine, written social page or journal, based on "A year in the life of a young person in 2020".

This week is all around "Back In The Day" and students are encouraged to ignite their passion, whether it be the budding Historian, Artist or Writer as they look to express the key differences in young people in 1920 compared to 2020.

### **Year 9: "Then and Now"**

Students have been working hard towards their pastoral curriculum throughout the year and we are keen to give them the opportunity to continue towards finishing their Year journey. Year 9 can work towards their pastoral badges by developing a communications piece, either a newspaper, magazine, written social page or journal, based on "If I could change the world/country/city, I would...".

This week is all around "Then and Now" and students are encouraged to ignite their passion, whether it be the budding Historian, Artist or Writer as they look to express the key differences in the world/a country/ a city in the early 1900s, to the year they were born and then to 2020 present day.

### **Year 10: Organisation and Planning**

Students have been working hard towards their pastoral curriculum throughout the year and we are keen to give them the opportunity to continue towards finishing their Year journey. Year 10 can work towards their pastoral badges by working towards a "My World and I" project.

This week is all around Organisation and Planning and students are encouraged to research different ways in which you can stay active and relax at home, along with creating a day to day timetable of events which could include independent learning through Doodle, house chores to help out and meal preparation.

- **Useful email accounts you may need over the next couple of weeks:**
- Any queries regarding doodle help, please email: [DoodleHelp@prospere.org.uk](mailto:DoodleHelp@prospere.org.uk)
- Any general queries, please email: [admin@chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:admin@chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk)

- **Advice available on wellbeing:**

It is important that young people are able to stay active and that they are taking care of their mental health. We will regularly assign tasks and advice to Doodle to support this. There is also an area on the school website that highlight activities. We would like you to consider the attachment on this page about keeping active. <https://www.chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk/student-life/well-being-and-mental-health>

- **Digital safety messages:** Distance learning will require more screen and internet time for students. It is very important that students are safe and responsible online. Please see the school website for any digital safety advice using the following link: <https://www.chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk/parents/digital-safety>

- **Free school meal advice**

Many of our students are entitled to a free school meal. To accommodate this the school will be able to offer a school meal to students on free school meals at 1pm each day. Unfortunately, all students who attend school for their lunch will have to leave school immediately following this. As soon as possible, we hope to put into place more long term arrangement.

We would like to thank parents for their support over the past week as we have had to reshape how we work as a school over the coming weeks.

We sincerely wish all our parents, students and families well and want to let you know that as a school we will do all we can to support you during this difficult time.

Kind regards,

Chorlton High School