

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Google Classroom update for parents/carers of KS3 students

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well. Since the closure of schools in March, staff have worked tirelessly to develop their understanding of how to best support students whilst they learn from home. Now that staff are more familiar with the use of Google Classroom, and in response to parent feedback, we have been reviewing and improving our provision and I would like to share further details of this with you.

From May half term staff have been including pre-recorded introductions to lessons to support students as they complete assignments. Additionally, staff have been sharing self-marking quizzes more frequently to provide students with immediate feedback. Following feedback from students and parents, staff have also been including clear success criteria or mark schemes to enable students to reflect upon their own work, which we know is a valuable learning strategy. We hope that students and parents will find this helpful over the coming weeks.

However, as Mr Shannon indicated in his recent letter, we know that there is more that we can do and we have created the following to best support our students.

From the 15th June for students in years 7 and 8, two new google classrooms will become live. These have been designed to support students using the summer term knowledge organisers which were posted home at the beginning of lockdown. Each week quizzes will be set for students to complete. These google classroom quizzes will enable students and staff to assess their understanding of the knowledge organiser content and our intention is that this will continue for students when they return in September. Students can join the classrooms using the codes below:

Year 7 knowledge organiser classroom: **xv7umbx**

Year 8 knowledge organiser classroom: **eqexmls**

For students in year 9, I can confirm that unless you were contacted directly by myself prior to the closure of schools, all students have been allocated their first choice options. To support students in preparing for our return in September, we have launched additional classrooms for options subjects that are not studied at KS3 or become much more specialised. These classrooms are now live and students can use the codes below to join the classrooms and access learning opportunities.

Subject	Classroom Code
BTEC Sport	22rtv7y
Art & Design	5nflfv0
Textiles	gahxol7
Drama	4l0wtz4
Media Studies	eopziyx
Music	owi3fwd
Music Technology	uzhtlr6
Psychology	m2hn6zh



Finally, we have been exploring methods of delivering 'live lectures' from school and I can confirm that delivery of these lessons will begin from the 15th June for students in years 7 - 9. For the remainder of the half term, students will be able to join one live lesson each day which will be specific to their year group. This will be in **addition** to the assignments set within the classroom.

Students will be able to access the live stream by following the link within the subjects classroom at the scheduled time indicated in the table below. This schedule will run each week until the end of the current half term.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 7 11.30 am	Science	English	Maths	History	Geography
Year 8 12.30 pm	Geography	English	Science	History	Maths
Year 9 1.30 pm	English	History	Geography	Science	Maths

We are using a function within the Google suite, known as a 'Google Meet - live stream'. We have chosen this as staff and students are familiar with Google classroom and it also provides us with the most secure mode of delivery from a safeguarding perspective.

As we will be exploring the use of this method of delivery for the first time, please bear with us if there are any technical hitches or teething problems. We are keeping fingers crossed that it goes as smooth possible!

We are planning to record these livestreams so if a students is unable to attend the 'live lecture', has connection difficulties during the stream or wishes to watch the lecture again they can do. These streams, like google classroom, can be accessed on a laptop, tablet, mobile phone or similar internet enabled device. Please remember that if a student has any questions related to a Google classroom assignment, they are able to contact their teacher using the classroom.

I hope that you will find these developments beneficial in supporting your child with home learning and that your child finds the sessions informative and engaging. Please do keep us informed, via our welfare call system or directly to school, as we value your feedback in helping us to best support you in supporting your child.

Yours faithfully,

C. Kane

Mrs C Kane

Deputy Headteacher