



Kirkburton Middle School

Turnshaw Avenue
Kirkburton
Huddersfield
HD8 0TJ

Telephone: 01484 222737

Headteacher: Mr C Taylor

Email: office@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk
Web: <http://www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk>

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Dear Parent/ Carer

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have survived your first week of home schooling! I wanted to write to give you more details about our remote provision and apologise in advance for the length of this communication.

Microsoft Teams Live lessons

As you will be aware, staff are delivering live lessons for all pupils using Microsoft Teams. We have chosen this option as a response to previous feedback from parents, and to ensure that pupils have a structured timetable to follow which we will hope will help with motivation and of course progress in learning. During lockdown, all remote learning will be set and delivered via Microsoft Teams. We will no longer be using the Remote Learning website.

- Pupils are invited to attend via the calendar and **lessons are compulsory**.
- All lessons will be recorded and saved to the Teams channel for that subject. Pupils who cannot participate live, can access the recorded lesson at a convenient time.
- All lessons will have a live start and finish. Some lessons may have teacher-pupil interaction throughout, other lessons may involve the teacher setting off a task and checking in and providing feedback later.

Curriculum

- Both pupils at home and pupils in school will receive the same provision and will follow their usual timetabled lessons.
- We will not be delivering Reading lessons and PE lesson remotely. In school, pupils will receive a PE lesson and we hope that pupils at home will be able to do some exercise. Mrs Joyce has created year group Teams channels and pupils can access PE activities in this way. During the Reading lessons that Y7 and 8 pupils would normally receive, we would like all pupils to spend some time reading books of their choice.
- If your child has Mr Bennett for Geography, we are currently unable to provide live lessons. Some groups may be invited to attend a live lesson where they are timetabled at the same time as another Geography group. For other groups, recordings of live lessons and assignments will appear in the appropriate Teams channels which pupils will be able to access in their usual Geography period.

Monitoring learning & engagement

- Prior to breaking up for the Christmas holidays the DfE introduced new guidance for remote learning which is mandatory. Please click [here](#) to read this guidance.
- Schools must now monitor engagement with remote learning daily and assess learning weekly. Teachers will therefore keep registers of pupils who attend lessons live, as we do in school, this will help us monitor who can attend live and who may need support.



- Teachers will set a weekly assignment for pupils to complete in each subject area. **This assignment will be compulsory for all pupils.** The assignment may be a self-marking quiz, a My Maths task or other subject related tasks. Most assignments will not be lengthy as we recognise that pupils may be in front of a screen for long periods of time. When pupils complete the assignment, they will receive a positive point on Class Charts. If pupils do not complete the assignment, they will receive a negative point. It is therefore vital that you let the school know of any technical issues that we can support with via the survey [here](#). Your child will not be penalised if they are unable to attend live.
- If your child is ill and unable to complete work and /or attend live lessons, please let us know via the office.

Contacts

- If there are issues with a particular subject, please contact the subject teacher in the first instance.
- If there are any pastoral concerns, please contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year. Please click [here](#) to learn how to access staff email address.

Please avoid contacting the school office if possible about subject related or pastoral issues but please do let the office know if your child is unwell.

Expectations of behaviour and work

I'm sure you will appreciate that staff have worked very hard to be able to get live lessons up and running quickly for pupils. Although not designed for education and at times problematic, we do feel that Microsoft Teams is the most effective and safest option to ensure pupils make progress with their learning. It is hard to maintain the usual pace of learning and utilise skills teachers usually rely on to engage and manage behaviour remotely. We would ask that you support us to help our pupils learn successfully by discussing the protocols below with your children.

We are extremely proud of the way the vast majority of pupils have engaged with our remote learning provision; they have been patient and understanding when things haven't gone according to plan and have supported each other to overcome difficulties and technical glitches. We are very lucky to have such fantastic pupils in our school.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns/queries.

Kind regards

Mrs Sam Kerr

Assistant Head: Teaching and Learning/Remote Learning coordinator