

13th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope we are all adjusting well to the challenges of lockdown. Thank you for your understanding and support, which have given us plenty of advice and ideas on how to create the best possible provision. Following a full week of online provision, we wanted to share details of how the timings of next week will change for our remote learning. We also want to take the chance to share some more information about how we can all get the best out of our remote provision, whilst sharing expectations.

We are changing the times of day for remote learning, starting on Monday 18th January. Our reason for changing is as a result of feedback from students, staff and parents and a commitment to deliver great learning but understanding fully the varying demands on families. Our school timetable is set up around buses, resources and many other things which are not relevant when we work from home. A slightly later start allows families and colleagues to access their childcare provision, whilst everything else is designed to manage the demands of an intense on-line working day.

The times for lessons from Monday 18th January are:

Period	Start Time
Period 1:	9am
Period 2:	10am
Period 3:	11am
Lunch:	12pm
Period 4:	12:30pm
Period 5:	1:30pm
End of Day	2:30pm

- Teachers will continue to put lessons in the Teams calendar, so student time is clearly planned out. This remains the first place to look each morning.
- Lesson times are 1 hour, but we are expecting teachers to manage the learning so that the activities close after 40-45 minutes. This is to allow students to finish up, stretch their legs, visit the bathroom and then set up for the next lesson. This replicates the school experience for students who move between lessons etc. It also breaks up the time interacting with a computer/phone screen. It can also allow children to process the learning, read or improve their work.
- You will see that there is no form tutor time built in. However, we will ask form tutors to identify a day of the week where they schedule a meeting/lesson with their tutor group between 2:30pm and 3pm. Form tutors will schedule this directly with their groups.
- In order to set up the new structured day, staff will require time to make technical changes. **Therefore, we will not be able to offer any live, online learning activities on Friday 15th January between 12:30pm and 3pm.** This will allow changes to lessons to be

reflected in calendars and plans. Full time learning will commence again at 9am on Monday 18th January.

We are also looking for opportunities to build in time for students to read and catch up with any missed work. We know that the demand on devices/screens at home is requiring many families to split screen time, making it difficult for some to be present for entire lessons. We will build in chances for catch up through the timetable and this will be communicated to students through teams. It is most likely that each student will get 2 or 3 lessons a week freed up for catch up/reading and this will be shown by gaps in the calendar. Please do not worry about this. We will identify the lessons that do not need attending and will ensure students know they have time back through the calendar in teams.

One of the areas of concern raised has been about the confusion that homework/embedded learning causes. We are asking that students are working hard during the live lessons and we aim to complete work during the time. We recognise that there will be occasions where learning may be extended (e.g maths fluency) but we want to avoid students feeling the need to complete pages of work after school has ended. We know that children want to produce perfect work, but we have to balance the quest for perfection with wellbeing. Please trust us, and support us, to do this.

Another area of discussion at home is the difference between home schooling and remote education. LSA has committed to all teachers, delivering as much live online learning as possible. Lessons build on what the students know and are planned for students to learn. Our aim is that these lessons are not reliant on parents teaching, allowing you to continue their own work. The challenge to parents is to continue to create the best possible environment and ensure students are ready to learn (which can be a job in itself!). If there are issues or concerns, our teams at school will contact you, so again, please do not worry.

Thank you for your patience as we set up, refine and improve online provision. With such short notice, there may be more changes ahead, but we have learned this week that our children are responding brilliantly. We will continue to do the best we can and make sure our students continue to thrive.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Baker', enclosed within a large, loopy oval scribble.

Ray Baker
Headteacher