



Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Students,

Remote Learning Update

Firstly, we wanted to thank you all for your efforts in supporting our students, your sons and daughters, with their remote learning. We are very aware how difficult this lockdown is for everyone, particularly compared to the first major lockdown in Spring 2020.

We have been working really hard throughout the whole year to explore ways of improving the remote learning provision. We will continue to investigate, acquire and share new ideas and training to make it as enjoyable and accessible as it can be. Provision will include the remote lessons, the review of work done, feedback on individual or whole class work as appropriate, personal mentor calls and the 'in-school' provision for the children of critical workers and our high needs/vulnerable students.

This letter is to summarise the current provision for remote learning so that you are aware what we currently have in place.

All of our remote learning is delivered/accessed via ClassCharts and our expectations is that ALL of our students engage with the following:

- Positive start – to join the morning assembly each morning from 9:00am.
- Structured day – to follow the timetabled lessons for that day.
- Self-organisation – to submit any assignments on time and catch-up any missed work.
- Support – to use the online chat to contact teachers directly for help and support, and to engage with the feedback received from teachers.
- Technology – be proactive and report to school any issues with technology or passwords.

As you know already, we are currently following the Department for Education, OFSTED and the Education Endowment Foundation guidance for remote learning, which is in line with our view that a full diet of live lessons is not necessarily the 'gold standard' and that:

- Giving feedback is often more effective when recorded lesson segments are used with written and interactive activities.
- Evidence suggests that concentration online is shorter than the length of a typical lesson, therefore filming a full classroom or live lesson may be ineffective.

How we are supporting your son / daughter through remote learning:

Personalised Learning – Your son/daughter will find their teachers giving detailed explanations, advice, modelling work and setting the scene for resources to be used within the lesson. This can be through narrated presentations, short videos and voice recordings. This offers the opportunity for your son/daughter to pause and re-play the parts of the teacher explanations that they do not understand. This will be part of a mix of resources, with some materials recorded by other teachers from within the Trust or beyond.

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Google Chat – Your son/daughter has access to the online chat facility. If they require support or have a question, they will be able to get subject specialist help from a teacher during the day. Students are encouraged to look through the chat regularly to see if their question has already been asked and an answer given. Teachers will post the chat links in their Google Classroom assignments and they can be found in the ClassCharts announcement section.

Amount of work set – Your son/daughter has five hours of remote learning each day. This is equivalent to the amount of learning they would normally receive in school. However, we are aware that some pupils and parents think that too much work is being set, some think too little is being set and some think that the amount of work is just right. All children are different and as such some find remote learning easier than others. If your son/daughter is finishing the work too quickly then I urge you to check that they are fully completing the work to the best of their ability and not rushing through it. In addition, please encourage them to look at the reading and watching lists that are on the school website - www.tarletonacademy.org/our-academy/latest-updates/reading-lists-for-home-learning-key-stage-3-4 .

If your son / daughter is spending too much time on their work and it is causing anxiety and stress please encourage them to contact their teachers via the chat for advice or talk it through in their personal mentor 'call'. Please encourage them to have a balance with their schoolwork and other interests and to build in breaks from the screen and get active where possible.

Assignment deadlines – All assignments are set on the day that they are timetabled, they are also due on the same day. However, the assignments remain open on ClassCharts as this enables pupils to catch up any work they have missed that week. Teaching staff will mark on ClassCharts the next working day whether a task has been submitted, parents can view this information on their ClassCharts account.

Assessment and Feedback – Teachers will provide feedback in a variety of ways such as through self-marking quizzes, verbal feedback on Google Classroom, whole class feedback posted within Google Classroom and addressing common misconceptions and improvements at the start of the next lesson. Student who produce a good quality of remote learning will receive achievement points through ClassCharts and these will be visible to parents. Where the quality of work is lower than would be expected, teachers will inform the Progress and Intervention team so they can intervene and support.

Live Tutor Sessions – Each tutor group will have a live teacher led tutor session on a weekly basis to enable them to interact with their peers and offers an opportunity to ask the tutor any questions. If your son/daughter does not attend this form time, then you will be notified.

Personal Mentor Sessions – Your son / daughter will have a weekly mentor session via Google Meet with a member of staff who will act as a liaison between them and their teachers within school to ensure that we are providing the most appropriate support. Mentors will also be able to discuss with your son / daughter the feedback from subject teachers on the quality of the work that they are submitting.

Parental Support – Our progress and intervention team will contact parents when we feel that your son / daughter needs more support to engage with their remote learning. Parents can contact the school via the enquiries@tarletonacademy.org .



For reference, the remote learning school day for all years is as follows:

Assembly & Lesson 1	9.00am
Lesson 2	10.00am
Break	11.00am
Lesson 3	11.20am
Lesson 4	12.20pm
Lunch	1.20pm
Lesson 5	2.00pm

Help with technology – We are aware that some students may only have smart phones or tablets or are sharing a laptop at home. If your son/daughter is finding it hard to complete the work because they do not have their own Chromebook, one borrowed from school, or there is no internet access in the house, then please contact the school and make us aware of any issues and we will endeavour to assist.

Finally, may we take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your son/daughter engages with their remote learning through this difficult time and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

M Cunniffe

Head of School
Tarleton Academy

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