



# WEST HILL SCHOOL

*Aiming High Since 1927*

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14<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Blended Learning Update**

In response to the partial closure of schools, all pupils at West Hill are accessing the curriculum through our Blended Learning approach.

The main platform for the delivery of learning resources remains the VLE, which provides a wealth of content in each subject area. These include resources such as PowerPoint presentations, Oak Academy links, instructional videos, teacher talk throughs, self-assessment tasks, and links to Kerboodle, Hegarty Maths and PiXL Apps.

Such resources allow all our boys to access a set of carefully sequenced lessons that they would typically access in our “normal” classrooms. At home these may be accessed during regulated lessons slots or at another time.

And while learning isn’t fundamentally different when done remotely, we appreciate that assessment and regular teacher feedback can be. These are both important components in helping your son progress and consequently, his teachers are asking him to submit weekly tasks through the VLE. Additionally, your son will be expected to participate in Microsoft Teams sessions where teachers will provide; whole class feedback, teacher explanation and will signpost the work to be completed the following week. Teams sessions will be delivered in timetabled slots and boys will receive a number of sessions throughout each week.

Much has been said and written about live lessons, indeed, in the Ofsted Report “What’s working well in Remote Education” published on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, it is stated “Some think that a live lesson is the ‘gold standard’ of remote education. This isn’t necessarily the case.” We believe, and research suggests, that our blended approach is one that best suits our learners here at West Hill School now, and moving forward. Pupils have access to a comprehensive and bespoke curriculum, learning resources and tasks, have time to work independently, time away from the screen, and quality time with their teachers and peers to assess their learning and know their next steps.

Our staff have worked incredibly hard in providing a curriculum that supports “**every boy becoming an independent, committed and engaged learner.**” They will continue to support your son over the coming weeks via email, Teams sessions and regular pastoral appointments.

And whilst we would encourage you to support your son in engaging with our Blended Learning package, we also recognise the importance of him having time away from the screen. Reading for pleasure is always something to be encouraged and exercise for health and wellbeing is equally important.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Wood

Deputy Headteacher

Miss Staples

Assistant Headteacher