



Smithdon High School
Mr J Hirst
Headteacher
Downs Road, Hunstanton
Norfolk PE36 5HY
Telephone: 01485 534541
e-mail: office@smithdonhigh.org.uk
website: www.smithdonhigh.org.uk

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Dear Parents

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting us, and your child, with getting settled into home learning. After our first full week we have been able to reflect on what is working well and how we could improve. As a result, we are making a few changes with effect from Monday 18th January.

- There will be a live tutor time every day at 8.30am. Every child is expected to log in to their tutor google classroom meeting room for this each day. This will enable tutors to check in with students' wellbeing and address any problems. These sessions will include a PSHE/ASPIRE session on Tuesdays and Thursdays and whole school assemblies every Friday.
- Every lesson throughout the day will have a live start. Therefore, every child should follow their normal timetable and be in the appropriate google classroom meeting room at the start of every period. As a reminder, the times for these are:
 - Period 1 - 9am
 - Period 2 - 10am
 - Period 3 - 11.25am
 - Period 4 - 12.25pm
 - Period 5 - 2pm
- A register will be taken at the start of every lesson.
- Following the live start to the lesson, students will then either be asked to continue on a live lesson with the teacher, be directed to a pre-recorded video lesson to follow or be set tasks to do.
- If it is not a live lesson, their teacher will be available to answer any questions throughout the lesson via the classroom chat stream, direct messaging function or on the meet screen (the teacher will make this clear in their introduction).

In order to join the live lesson starts, students simply go to the Google Classroom for the subject lesson they have and click on the "Meet Link" in the banner of the 'Stream' page (see image attached). They do not need to wait for an invite or any other information at the start of each lesson

We recognise that everyone is in a different situation and experiencing their own challenges. We hope that these changes will help all students to develop a routine and engage in all their lessons so they can continue making the good progress that they would in school.

The health and wellbeing of our students is, as always, very important and therefore we will aim to reduce screen time where we can. Teacher-led live lessons will set expectations, seek to resolve misconceptions, check progress and reaffirm previous learning. Students may be expected, on occasion, to complete work on Hegarty Maths, the Oak Academy, BBC Bitesize and other online learning platforms. Learning time in lessons should be an hour, but the intention is that not all lessons will have an hour of screen time. Teachers will encourage



students to complete paper-based activities and spend time away from the computer, where they will work independently.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be receiving new Knowledge Organisers through the post to support their learning away from the computer. Many of our KS4 students already have books, revision guides and other resources at home and we will discuss with individual departments what further support and resources they will require over the next few weeks, then make arrangements for these to be used at home.

It is important that students do not worry about their education and the circumstances we all now find ourselves in. Any student who needs to talk to someone can use the 'I Want to Talk' form on the *Student Life* pages of the school website (and on their tutor Google Classroom) and a member of staff will get in touch with them as soon as possible.

We strongly encourage students to stick to the daily structure set out above and also take breaks (including those timetabled at 11-11.15am and 1.25-2pm), get outside each day for a walk or physical activities and spend time away from the computer.

As a school we are constantly evolving and reviewing our practices to ensure that our students' education, wellbeing and health is maintained so that their return to school is as smooth and hazard-free as possible.

Finally, as previously published, Friday 12 February will be an INSET training day for staff. No work will be set for students on this day and the school will be open for frontline Key Workers' children only.

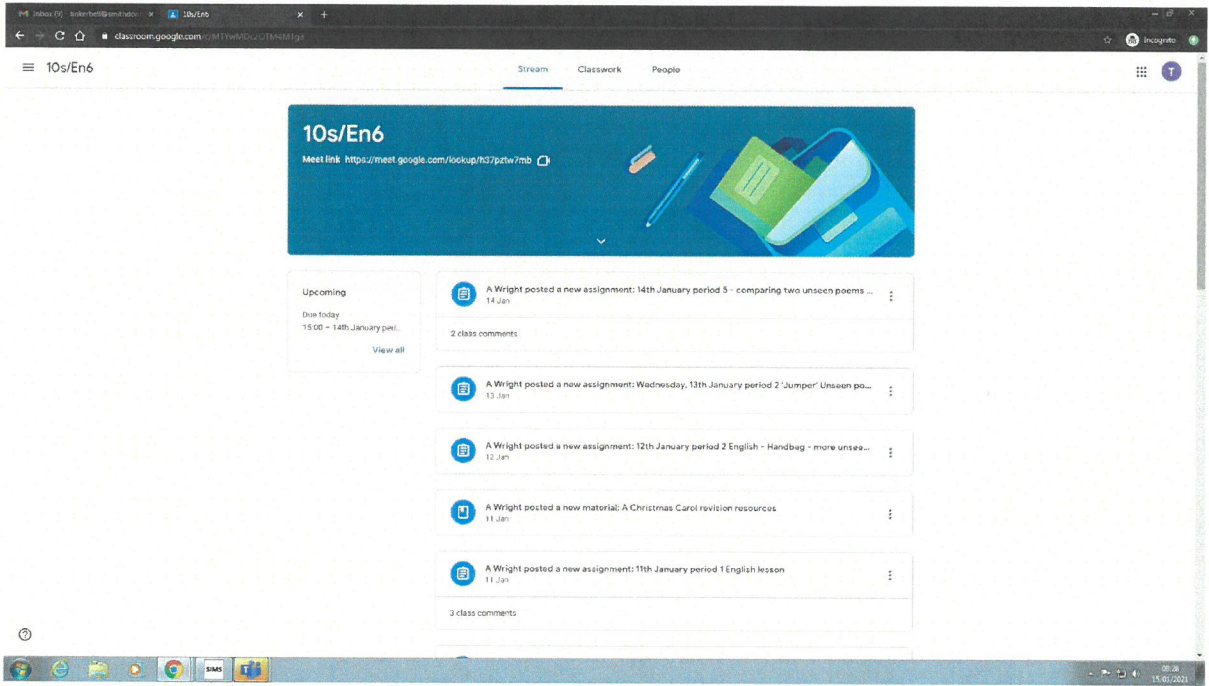
Please do keep in touch with us during this time, as we will you. Please contact your child's tutor in the first instance if you have any issues.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Hirst
Headteacher

Google Classroom Subject Stream Page



The meet link can be found in the banner on the Stream page, as seen in the close-up below:

