



Smithdon High School
Mr J Hirst
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Re: JHi/AGi/LT

7 January 2021

Dear Parents

It is with the greatest regret that we have had to close the school following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday evening. Smithdon has been making good progress and we have been so proud of how our students have adjusted and adapted to the new ways of working in such a positive manner.

Our plans have been put into place to help support students with their learning whilst they are at home. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school should you need additional support in organising and understanding the work students are meant to be completing. We also have a limited number of laptops available in school which can be distributed to eligible students, who do not have access to a computer at home, please contact the school if you would like to apply for one of these.

Remote Learning - Overview

Home schooling will follow the normal school day (timings from pre-Covid disruptions, as below) and your child's regular 2-Week timetable cycle. All lessons and work set should include in the title the date and the period in which it should be accessed. While work will be added to the Google Classroom in advance of some lessons, your child should complete the tasks at the specified time and day.

Remote learning lessons will be planned in a rotation of three lessons:

1. As a minimum, one lesson will be a "live" lesson, which will be a live presentation, a pre-recorded video or a PowerPoint with teacher's voiceover, which will introduce new content.
2. One lesson will be tasks set, based upon the live lesson/new content
3. One lesson will be a feedback lesson that may present a modelled answer, guided marking or a self-mark quiz.

Times of the day will be as follows:

Period 1	9.00-10.00
Period 2	10.00-11.00
Break	11.00-11.25
Period 3	11.25-12.25
Period 4	12.25-13.25
Lunch	13.25-14.00
Period 5	14.00-15.00

Every Tuesday and Thursday there will also be a tutor period from 8.30am, which your child will be expected to attend.

Registers will be taken for all lessons to ensure attendance and engagement. We will contact you should we have concerns with either of these.

Remote Learning – Accessing work

All work will be set for every subject on Google Classroom, which can be accessed directly by the students using their school email address and password.



Parents who have accepted the invitation to be linked as a Guardian can choose to receive weekly or daily update emails regarding the work set, deadlines for completion and any overdue work. (Guidance for this was shared previously in a letter to parents in October (copy attached). If you require a further invitation, please request this from your child's form tutor).

The rules of attending live lessons on Google Classroom are that:

- All students keep their cameras switched off and their microphones muted unless asked to unmute by the teacher
- Students should only use the chat facility to engage with/respond to the teacher and must ensure their comments are appropriate to a classroom environment.
- Teachers will record all live lessons for the purposes of safeguarding all students and staff engaged in the lesson, as well as to be accessible later for those who wish to revisit the lesson to help their understanding or who are unable to attend the lesson at its live time

Student Absence/Illness

If your child is unwell – or tests positive for Covid-19 – and is unable to complete their work as normal, please contact the Attendance Officer by emailing attendance@smithdonhigh.org.uk or telephoning 01485 536123 to inform us. This way, we can ensure we offer the students support in keeping up with their work and make teachers aware that they are unwell and not able to engage with the work for a few days, rather than us chasing them for incomplete or unsubmitted work.

Additional information

We hope that the school closure will be relatively short and that students will return to school after February half term, when we can return to at least the degree of normality we preserved before Christmas.

The exam weeks scheduled for Year 7 and Year 8 will be postponed until we return. At this time a two week revision period will be planned before the assessments take place.

To this end we have organised online parents' evenings to take place this half term:

- Year 10 will be on Thursday 14 January
- Year 9 on Tuesday 9 February.

We will be writing to you separately to explain how these will be conducted.

Please use the school's website remote learning pages to access other resources, such as the Knowledge Organisers for Key Stage 3, which cover the information needed for the units this half term, and additional resources for a few subjects, as well as links to other websites we recommend for supporting your child's learning.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us should you require any assistance or support.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Hirst
Headteacher



Mrs A Gibbins
Head of School