

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you and your loved ones are well and staying safe.

Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continuous support during these uncertain times and be rest assured that as a school, we are working hard to try and meet the needs of all our students through compassion and care.

'Learning to Learn from Home' remotely is certainly a very new experience for many of us and for our students to experience. We are aware that many students will face difficult challenges in the current climate and would like to reassure you that we are doing our upmost in planning for their future to ensure our students are not disadvantaged with their future next steps within the world of education or work.

It is important that our students feel ready for the next step in their educational journey including those subjects where aspects of GCSE are being undertaken. The following platforms can help students to work towards keeping up to date with their learning and ensure they are prepared for when school starts again.

Routines

We have put together a **suggestion of a timetable** that may support your child with organising their day. The subjects listed are just suggestions, your child may want to substitute the subjects for others that are more key to them. We are hoping that this timetable will give some routine, a sense of normality and a feeling of still being connected as a community. The rest of their day is for family, for physical activity, for mindfulness activities or acts of kindness.

Curriculum Learning Platforms

These are highly recommended to support your child's learning in addition to work being set by the school.

GCSE Pod: <https://www.gcsepod.com/>

Utilise **GCSE POD** on a regular weekly basis, where there are a wide range of interactive resources. In addition, it now includes Parent Webinars that will support you in helping your son/daughter with their studies.

Oak National Academy: <https://www.thenational.academy/>

This is a new online classroom and resource hub created by teachers to support teachers, parents and students to support home learning. The online resources are updated daily, includes a curriculum map, access to a timetable as well as high-quality video lessons, learning resources, quizzes and answers. The subjects currently being offered are English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Spanish and PE, every lesson is free to use and does not require registration or any log on details.

Please ensure steps are taken to safeguard your child learning safely online, the following link has some advice:
<https://www.westgate.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=Learning+Safely+Online&pid=443>

As a school we are continuously looking into 'Learning to Learn from Home' and how we can support our families. We are currently developing a new area on our website dedicated to 'Learning to Learn from Home' which we will continuously update on a regular basis. In the initial phase of development, the following resources are available for your households and children to use:

- An example of a KS3 'Learning to Learn from Home' student timetable
- A blank editable 'Learning to Learn from Home' student timetable
- Virtual Voyage: Fly around the world remotely developing 'Study Skills'
- Online Learning Platforms*
- 30 #equippedforlife Challenges
- #Coping young person's guide
- #Coping 5 ways to wellbeing
- Top Tips for dealing with anxiety
- 60 Day Wellbeing Challenge for families
- Top Tips for positive wellbeing
- Stay Active, Relax & Distract Wellbeing Pack

**Currently under construction on our website*

Our learning and curiosity for life never stops, we would love for your child to explore and travel the wonders of the world from home:

<https://artsandculture.withgoogle.com/en-us/national-parks-service/welcome>

<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

<https://artsandculture.google.com/explore>

<https://www.bbcearth.com/>

[https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/virtual-museum.html?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI1_nTrp6Q6QIVm-](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/virtual-museum.html?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI1_nTrp6Q6QIVm-vtCh2LrQVwEAAYAiAAEgLN_PD_BwE)

[vtCh2LrQVwEAAYAiAAEgLN_PD_BwE](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/virtual-museum.html?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI1_nTrp6Q6QIVm-vtCh2LrQVwEAAYAiAAEgLN_PD_BwE)

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/50-of-the-best-virtual-trips-and-educational-experiences-for-families>

Please be assured that Year 9 options are being processed and Mr Sheperd will be in contact over the coming weeks with updates and more information.

We know our Year 9 students are trying their very best to navigate through a new way of communication along with getting to grips with home learning and trying to meet deadlines. We would like to reassure you that #TeamWestgate are here to support you and if your child is experiencing difficulties, such as meeting deadlines or accessing work we would like for them to communicate, in the first instance, with their classroom teacher.

Please know that we fully appreciate that this can feel like a challenging time for everybody involved. However, by continuing to work together we are confident that we will provide the best support and ensure that our children, families and staff all move in the right direction to make the very most of these extraordinary times.

We very much miss all of our students and fully appreciate all of your feedback and support. Please keep strong and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Sandhu
Assistant Headteacher