

13 January 2021

Dear families

Remote Learning Update 5

We are extremely proud of all students who are engaging with remote learning whether at home or at the academy and will continue to tweet examples of students' work via the academy [Twitter feed](#).

It is absolutely imperative that parents and carers spend time carefully reading the letters and guides which have been sent out. We have received many calls today with queries which can be found in the communication which has been sent to families.

Leaders made the conscious decision to move to an asynchronous model of delivering remote learning and this is underpinned by research from the EEF which has been communicated several times in my letters to families. Furthermore, Ofsted have recently published guidance (11 January 2021) which references several unhelpful myths about remote education, all of which are not based on evidence. These include a common myth that the best way to deliver remote education is always through live lessons. The academy's offer allows for flexibility and reassurance that lessons can be completed either as per the suggested timetable or outside of the timetable.

We know that our students are extremely resilient and independent. The role of parents and carers is crucial in ensuring a successful experience for students working at home. This this will mean supporting students in the first instance with accessing worksheets and guiding students until they feel confident. We are acutely aware of the importance to engage pupils, but this is only a precondition for learning, not the thing itself. Thank you for supporting us in motivating your child to engage with remote learning.

With the introduction of a new learning platform will come teething issues; even after the testing which has taken place. I would like to remind everyone that we pride ourselves on a genuine three-way partnership with parents and that feedback needs to be given through the appropriate channels but more importantly in an appropriate and respectful way.

There have been reports that MS Teams is running slowly for some students, please ensure that you do not have multiple tabs or programmes running at once. For families struggling to access MS Teams currently due to lack of compatible devices, please ensure you read the guidance fully as you do not need to download the MS Teams app. Both Outlook and Teams can be accessed via the [Remote Learning](#) page of the academy website. The parallel offer of remote learning lessons is also available, as previously communicated, via the Remote Learning page. Please ensure you email your child's class email address in the first instance with any queries you have relating to MS Teams or Tapestry.

We have made a short video to provide clarity about editing Powerpoint worksheets within MS Teams. Please watch the video [here](#) if this has proved challenging today. Photographs of completed work can also be emailed as communicated on my previous updates.

As communicated previously, every Friday, students will receive a feedback form which should be completed by 12pm. This will sent via your child's email address.

For families who have requested a device and not yet received an invitation to collect it, please continue to follow the remote learning timetable on the [Remote Learning](#) page of our website (13-15 January) as we are still awaiting delivery of devices from the Department of Education. We hope to be able to invite you in to collect your device and provide an update by the end of this week.

Thank you for your continued support and stay safe.



Mr Robbins-Ross
Principal

