

The Derby High School

Science and Arts College



Our ref HHU/dg

27 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your family are keeping well.

We have been working incredibly hard at The Derby High School to ensure that we maintain our provision of a high-quality education. I am extremely proud of the way in which staff and students have responded to this challenging situation and the engagement from students with remote education has been incredibly positive.

Remote Education Plan

Mr White sent a letter last November with a detailed outline of our provision during any period of lockdown (see the website – COVID – ‘Student attendance whilst working remotely’).

In summary, students are currently following their normal timetabled lessons (with in-built time for a break after each Microsoft Teams lesson).

From the outset, we have provided a blended learning experience for students at Key Stage 3 (Years 7 – 9) including live lessons in English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Religious Studies and French and work set via email for other subjects in the curriculum.

At Key Stage 4 (Years 10 – 11) all lessons, except Core PE, are delivered through Microsoft Teams lessons.

There may be some exceptions to the above due to staffing pressures however, we will ensure that your child is always set work in-line with the curriculum in these situations.

Homework continues to be part of our curriculum and staff are setting this either using Microsoft Teams or email. As such, until further notice we will not be using the SIMS app to share homework.

Classroom based education cannot be rivalled. Our teaching staff, however, are striving to replicate this experience through their delivery of live lessons. To ensure this has the required impact, please encourage your child to be actively engaged and focused when they are in these lessons. We are continuing to use our ‘Attitude to Learning’ (ATL) grading system to maintain detailed records of your child’s engagement with live lessons (Grade 1 = inadequate/did not attend the lesson, Grade 2 = requires improvement/engagement was intermittent, Grade 3 = good/engaged, Grade 4 = outstanding/high engagement).

This ATL information can now also be found via the SIMS engagement app. Please note that this will be recorded ‘on the day’ for the Microsoft Teams live lessons. If you see an ATL 4 for a live lesson then you know your child



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has done extremely well and has been engaged. Likewise, if you see an ATL 2 then you know that they have not engaged as expected in the lesson and may not have responded to direct questions from the teacher.

We are also using this ATL system to grade your child's response to work set via email but there may be a delay in the recording of the ATL scores for these lessons which would mean that an ATL score is not recorded until the work had been received and marked.

We are extremely mindful of the amount of screen time that comes with remote learning and the effects this may have on mental health and well-being. All lessons on Microsoft Teams have been set with a break before the next lesson and there is a morning break from 10.15 am – 10.30 am and a lunchtime break from 12.30 pm – 1.00 pm. I would strongly recommend your child takes this time to move around, get a drink and have a proper break.

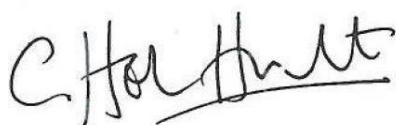
As part of our remote curriculum the PE Department are setting physical activities and this will provide further time away from the screen to ensure your child maintains a healthy lifestyle.

Teacher Training Day

In the school calendar a teacher training day was planned for Wednesday 3rd February 2021. As our students are now in good habits with remote learning we feel we should delay this date until Wednesday 3rd March. Please be aware that this could still be subject to change dependent on any future Government announcements.

Many thanks for all you are doing, as parents/carers to support your child and your continued support for the school. I would like to thank the many parents/carers who have got in touch with us to share their appreciation for the work we are doing. These messages do get passed on to the staff team and have been a well-received boost for us all.

Take care and stay safe.



Ms C H Hubert

Headteacher

