



23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am writing to you to communicate some important information with regards to home learning.

**The home learning platform:**

As per previous correspondence all home learning for students who are asked to work from home or self-isolate is being set by their subject teachers using the 365 Teams platform.

To access this platform students need to know their login details for 365 Microsoft Office. Usernames begin with the year they started secondary education (Year 7), their initial, surname followed by @castlerocksch.uk. If for any reason your child is struggling to access this platform please email [homelearning@castlerocksch.uk](mailto:homelearning@castlerocksch.uk) and we will do our best to help resolve any issues as efficiently as possible.

**Live lessons:**

Teachers that are fit and well, but have been required to self-isolate are streaming live lessons into their classes in school across all years. This is so we can ensure the quality of education that students are receiving and that students have a consistent learning experience. **Live lessons are not being streamed home to KS3 or KS4 students.**

**Learning that is set and our expectations for completion:**

With regards to the work being set, teachers are following the curriculum that they would be covering in school. They are therefore setting an appropriate amount of learning to reflect the required number of subject hours that would be taught in school. Teachers are either setting work at the beginning of the week or in accordance with student timetables. We do recognise that home learning will generally take longer for students to complete at home by themselves than it would if learning was being explained by a class teacher. Therefore, our realistic expectations are that students will do the best they can in the situation they are in.

Please note, when last minute decisions need to be made with regards to isolating students and staff that it can take longer for work to be uploaded onto the 365 Teams system.

We also recognise that there might be elements of the home learning that some students do not understand. Students are encouraged to make contact with teachers via email, who will do their very best to offer students their support. Equally students can make contact with teachers using the 'post' chat forum on their individual subject team. When awaiting a response, please note that teachers are teaching full timetables/ covering for absent teachers for COVID related reasons.



### **Completing home learning**

Students can work in one of two ways. They can either follow their timetable taught in school when completing home learning, or some prefer to work through each subject at a time. This can be a personal choice.

All student have been shown/ had the opportunity to practise using 365 Microsoft Office in school. Should your child require further support there is a detailed guide to support parents and carers on our website under the home learning section. Again, if after exhausting this option you require further support please contact us at [homelarning@castlercksch.uk](mailto:homelarning@castlercksch.uk).

Not all documents that teachers send will enable students to edit. They should therefore complete activities either on a word document or by hand in a note book. They should either share this work with their teachers using 365 Teams or they can email it directly to the teacher. Other than that students can bring hard copies of completed learning into school on their return. Teachers are monitoring completion of this.

### **When students return to school**

Please be reassured that staff are constantly adapting their curriculum plans and teaching to meet the needs of their students to address any gaps in knowledge, understanding and skill.

For those students studying GCSE, BTEC and A Level courses who have been absent from school and have not been able to complete any home learning due to illness, it is their responsibility to speak to their teachers and catch up with missed learning on their return.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support with home learning during these difficult time.

Kindest regards

Mrs D Clayfield



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