

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the interest of keeping you up to date with our approach to COVID – 19 and maintaining learning for our students please see below our planning, preparation and strategy to deal with any potential school closure.

Currently the school remains open and we are busy preparing to continue to be able to provide students access to the curriculum in the event of a decision by Public Health England to close the school.

Stage 1 has been to ensure that all students and parents can access Show My Homework (SMHW) as this is the platform that we have decided to utilise to set, assess and feedback on work completed. In the event of a school closure all teachers will set work via SMHW.

Whilst this has been taking place staff have been organising resources to upload to SMHW which will provide students with purposeful work and will continue to support their progress.

In the event of a school closure work will immediately be set on SMHW for the students to complete. The table below illustrates the amount of curriculum time that will be covered;

Year Group	Amount of curriculum time covered.
7	50%
8	50%
9	50%
10	100%
11	100%
12	100%
13	100%

Therefore, a Y11 student who would normally receive 8 hours of maths curriculum time per fortnight will still receive 8 hours of online learning. However, a Y9 student who has 4 hours of Modern Languages per fortnight, will receive 2 hours of work to complete over a fortnight.

A wide variety of resources will be used in setting work. These could include;

- Seneca
  - Online free revision guides for most subjects from Y7 through to Y13. Just sign up and access all the resources for free
- Mathswatch
  - Students have a login for their area where work will be set. Work is marked immediately, and additional questions are available to support students with independent revision. There are videos to help you if you get stuck.
- Sparx
- BBC Bitesize
- Corbett Maths
- Essays
- Worksheets
- Projects
- Microsoft teams
  - (students have access to all class teams via their office 365 account)

Students will need to read the instructions on SMHW carefully and ensure that they are meeting deadlines and sharing their outcomes in the expected format. This may be answering online questions, taking a photo of work completed or uploading a piece of work to be assessed online. Teachers will be online and ready to respond to questions via email, team chat, show my homework e.t.c. if clarification or further explanation is required.

We are aware that there will be a very small minority of students that are unable to access the internet or have access to a computer/laptop/tablet reliably at home. Packs are being prepared to send home for these students.

We are continuing to monitor the situation closely and as always have the safety and wellbeing of the staff, students and all in our community at the core of what we do. The current Government advice is that schools are to remain open. However, individuals should self-isolate in the event of a cough or fever. The latest government advice is included here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Attached to the end of this letter is a list of websites and online resources that can be used to complement the work being set by staff. They are resources successfully used by home educators. They are suitable for a wide range of age groups and abilities, however, please ensure that as with all online resources, that students are supported and guided to those which are most appropriate.

In recognition of the situation the invitation only Y11 parents evening on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 has been cancelled and calls/emails to parents will happen instead. With respect to the summer exams the recommendation remains unchanged, and until we hear any different, students will be continuing to prepare to complete their GCSE/A Levels from the 11<sup>th</sup> May.

As a college we appreciate your continued support and understanding in these rapidly changing and unprecedented times.

Kind regards

Emma Dixon

Deputy Head Curriculum and Assessment

## FREE online education resources

Khan Academy

<https://www.khanacademy.org>

Especially good for maths and computing for all ages but other subjects at Secondary level. Note this uses the U.S. grade system but it's mostly common material.

BBC Learning

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/coursesearch/>

This site is old and no longer updated and yet there's so much still available, from language learning to BBC Bitesize for revision. No TV licence required except for content on BBC iPlayer.

Futurelearn

<https://www.futurelearn.com>

Free to access 100s of courses, only pay to upgrade if you need a certificate in your name (own account from age 14+ but younger learners can use a parent account).

Seneca

<https://www.senecalearning.com>

For those revising at GCSE or A level. Tons of free revision content. Paid access to higher level material.

Openlearn

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/>

Free taster courses aimed at those considering Open University but everyone can access it. Adult level, but some e.g. nature and environment courses could well be of interest to young people.

Blockly

<https://blockly.games>

Learn computer programming skills - fun and free.

Scratch

<https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/>

Creative computer programming

Ted Ed

<https://ed.ted.com>

All sorts of engaging educational videos

National Geographic Kids

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

Activities and quizzes for younger kids.

Duolingo

<https://www.duolingo.com>

Learn languages for free. Web or app.

Mystery Science

<https://mysteryscience.com>

Free science lessons

The Kids Should See This

<https://thekidsshouldseethis.com>

Wide range of cool educational videos

Crash Course

<https://thecrashcourse.com>

You Tube videos on many subjects

Crash Course Kids

<https://m.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids>

As above for a younger audience

Crest Awards

<https://www.crestawards.org>

Science awards you can complete from home.

iDEA Awards

<https://idea.org.uk>

Digital enterprise award scheme you can complete online.

Paw Print Badges

<https://www.pawprintbadges.co.uk>

Free challenge packs and other downloads. Many activities can be completed indoors.

Badges cost but are optional.

Tinkercad

<https://www.tinkercad.com>

All kinds of making.

Prodigy Maths

<https://www.prodigygame.com>

Is in U.S. grades, but good for UK Primary age.

Cbeebies Radio

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio>

Listening activities for the younger ones.

Nature Detectives

<https://naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetect.../>

A lot of these can be done in a garden, or if you can get to a remote forest location!

British Council

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find>

Resources for English language learning

Oxford Owl for Home

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

Lots of free resources for Primary age

Big History Project

<https://www.bighistoryproject.com/home>

Aimed at Secondary age. Multi disciplinary activities.

Geography Games

<https://world-geography-games.com/world.html>

Geography gaming!

Blue Peter Badges

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges>

If you have a stamp and a nearby post box.

The Artful Parent

<https://www.facebook.com/artfulparent/>

Good, free art activities linked to from this Facebook page

Red Ted Art

<https://www.redtedart.com>

Easy arts and crafts for little ones

The Imagination Tree

<https://theimaginationtree.com>

Creative art and craft activities for the very youngest.

Toy Theater

<https://toytheater.com/>

Educational online games

DK Find Out

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/...>

Activities and quizzes

Twinkl

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

This is more for printouts, and usually at a fee, but they are offering a month of free access to parents in the event of school closures.