

Home Educating Your Child

This document gives some guidance about how Highworth Warneford School intends to support the ongoing education of your child during the enforced closure due to the COVID-19 virus.



Please read carefully and make sure that your child has also seen this.

Context

Although the situation is still unclear, there is every possibility that the school will be shut for a lengthy period of time and maybe not open until the start of the next academic year. Therefore, we need to make provision for their education to continue, as it is not sensible to write off a whole term's worth of learning.

Once the excitement about not being in school has worn off, the thought of bored and disgruntled teens and pre-teens around the house with nothing productive to do will no doubt be something that all parents and carers will want to avoid.

An obvious question to ask is what will happen if a student does not complete the work set. The simple answer is that they will fall behind their peers and will really struggle on their return to school. We are not asking you as parents to teach them (although many of you will be keen to support their learning) but your main role will be to monitor their work and encourage them to keep on top of their studies. One silver lining is that they will have to become increasingly independent with their work habits.

How will work be set?

Teachers will put all instructions about work to be completed at home on ClassCharts on a week-by-week basis. Broadly speaking, staff will be setting tasks that will take roughly the same amount of time that would be allocated to that subject in a normal week.

Work might be sent as attachments for students to complete in their exercise books or it might involve logging in to a website to complete online tasks. There may be videos to watch, reading to do or project work. Students must work neatly when using their exercise books and ensure that each piece of work is dated and titled. We want to maintain high expectations!

In addition to tasks set by teachers to cover new learning, Year 10 should be going over their notes to date, making revision materials and making sure that they are confident about the content of the work they have completed so far.

We understand that other nationally-provided resources might be made available at some stage. If this happens, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Where and when should students work?

It is advised that students stick to a very clear routine. Although they might want to move the start of their normal working day slightly, staying in bed until mid-morning is not going to do them any favours. Get up at a reasonable time and work on different subjects (not just their favourites!), stopping for regular breaks and lunch. Unless they are buddy-working via social media (see later) it is a good idea for phones to be away and silenced.

Students should sit up a desk or table so that there is formality to their work. It is not recommended that work is done on their bed – this needs to be a calm place associated with rest not work.

Don't forget that there are lots of ways to learn and with so much time at home, students should be encouraged to also pursue personal interests and hobbies.

Will work be marked?

Apart from occasional tasks for Year 10 students, no work will be marked. Proper mechanisms for collecting work in are not in place and, given that most teachers will also be working from home, this is just too difficult. However, it is likely that students will be given access to mark schemes and model answers, so that they can assess their own progress.

Online Resources

The school has access to a wide range of online resources to support learning. These include:

- GCSEPod
- ActiveLearn

- Our Learning Zone
- Our VLE (to access files on the network)

These can all be accessed via our website using the Quicklinks section on our website.

We don't have good access to ICT

As long as you can access ClassCharts to get the work in the first place, this won't be a problem. Staff have been asked to include non-ICT alternatives for work that requires a computer/Internet connection.

How can we use the time to develop literacy?

Enforced school closure will provide a great opportunity for our youngsters to develop vital literacy skills. They should definitely try to read quietly for a set amount of time every day. Keeping a list of new vocabulary and definitions as they come up is a good way to broaden word power. Family members can then test students on spellings from all subject areas.

Other ideas to develop literacy include:

- listening to songs and writing out the lyrics
- watching TV programmes and films with the subtitles on
- word games

What if my child gets stuck or doesn't understand the instructions?

Don't worry if this happens! Encourage them to look up any words, problems or concepts online to see if they can work it out for themselves. If they are still stuck then you can help them. Otherwise, get them to contact a friend or their teacher. Ensure that they move on to another subject while waiting for a response.

Can I email my teacher?

Yes. Staff will check their emails during normal school working hours. Please allow at least 24 hours for a response to an email – remember that teachers might be caring for sick family members or be ill themselves. Students need to make sure that the tone and content is polite and appropriate – anything inappropriate will be ignored. Start emails with Dear (title + name) and end with their full name and tutor group. Make sure that the purpose of the email is clear in the subject bar e.g. "Help with History"

Please note that staff will be mindful of GDPR and that devices used at home will be locked down when not in use. Sensitive data will be secure and closed once used.

Email addresses for all teachers are included as an appendix to this document.

We would prefer students to use their school email address for any correspondence. The format of this is the same for everyone and has the same password as their school logins:

username@warnefordschool.org

A link to Office365 can be found on the Quicklinks section of our website. This also gives access to various Office products such as Word and Excel.

My child has forgotten their password

We have set up a dedicated email address to deal with any password queries. Please email the following details to Passwordreset@warnefordschool.org

- Student's full name
- Tutor group
- Which password needs to be sent/reset e.g. email/Activelearn/GCSEPod

Collecting books and equipment

We understand that some Year 9 and 10 students in particular will not have all of their books and equipment with them. We ask that you do not come into school during the normal working day to collect anything. We will, however, make arrangements for students to collect anything they <u>urgently</u> need after school. Please look out for announcements.

During this time, we are not particularly worried about which exercise book students do their work in. For example, if they don't have their Geography exercise book, they can do any work on loose paper or in another book.

It is likely that students will run out of stationery during the school closure. We will make sure there is a supply of exercise books, paper and other equipment that can be picked up from school at certain times. Again, please look out for announcements.

Work buddies

Working in isolation day after day is not always going to be particularly motivating. It is therefore really important that students keep a sense of community by maintaining contact with each other. Having a work buddy or buddies to share ideas and provide reassurance will be important. We often complain about the evils of social media but this is one way in which it could be an extremely positive influence.

The same will be true of you. Make sure that you stay connected and share successes and frustrations in equal measure.

Another way of maintaining our sense of community is to tell us how your child is getting on. If you want to share any pictures of your child studying hard or doing something interesting then please email Mr Nye (mnye@warnefordschool.org) who will post a selection on our school Twitter feed @warnefordschool.

Pastoral Concerns

Just because your child is going to be at home does not mean that we are not still available to support you with any pastoral concerns. Please contact us as you would normally, with the tutor usually being the first port of call.

Equally, you may receive a phone call from somebody at the school every now and again to see how things are going. We are not being nosy but just want you to know that we are still here to help.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding of students continues regardless of the school's closure. We have a comprehensive safeguarding section on our website, including a comprehensive section on social media. If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child then please make contact:

- Andy Steele (Designated Safeguarding Lead) asteele@warnefordschool.org
- Katie Green (Deputy DSL) kgreen@warnefordschool.org
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub: 01793 466903

Mental Health

We understand that this unprecedented situation is going to cause anxiety for our youngsters. I know that you will do your best to reassure them, as we have tried to do in school. Things will hopefully quickly become the new normal.

However, we are aware that some of our youngsters will now not be able to access services such as internal and external counselling, the school nurse and other pastoral support.

This will be no replacement for some of those services but I recommend the following as an alternative or for any student that needs to speak to somebody about their concerns.



Kooth is a FREE, anonymous, confidential, safe, online Wellbeing service, offering counselling, information, and forums for children and young people.

Access 365 days a year to counsellors who are available from:

12 noon-10pm Monday- Friday, and 6pm-10pm Saturday and Sunday

Or live discussion forum Monday, Wednesday, Friday 7.30-9pm. Topics pages and articles are accessible at any time.

Log on through mobile, laptop and tablet.





Questions

If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to keep in touch. We may not respond individually but, if there are themes then we will circulate some frequently asked questions along with our response.



Appendix A – Staff Emails

All emails follow the same format and end in @warnefordschool.org

For any general enquiries use admin@warnefordschool.org

Mrs	Airey	KAirey@warnefordschool.org	DT	Head of Faculty
Mr	Barton	ABarton@warnefordschool.org	English	Tread of Fadarey
Mr	Blake	RBlake@warnefordschool.org	Science	Head of Faculty
Mr	Burt	HBurt@warnefordschool.org	Music/Drama	Tread of Facarey
Mr	Bush	ABush@warnefordschool.org	PE PE	Head of Year 8
Mrs	Chadwick	EChadwick@warnefordschool.org	Maths	Tread of Teal o
	Chetty	SChetty@warnefordschool.org	English	Head of Year 10
-	Clarke	MClarke@warnefordschool.org	Art	Head of Department
_		MDSouza@warnefordschool.org	Science	Tread of Department
Mrs	Davies	BDavies@warnefordschool.org	Drama/PSHE	Head of PSHE
Mrs	Dixon	JPostlethwaitedixon@warnefordschool.org	English	Tread of FSTIL
Mr	Drew	SDrew@warnefordschool.org	ICT	
Ms	Galeozzie	CGaleozzie@warnefordschool.org	English	Head of Faculty
Ms	Gardiner	VGardiner@warnefordschool.org	DT	incad of racurey
Mr	Gibbons	DGibbons@warnefordschool.org	PE	Assistant Head of Year 9
Ms	Gill	SGill@warnefordschool.org	 	
Mr	Green	JGreen@warnefordschool.org	History Science	Head of Department
	Green	KGreen@warnefordschool.org	Science	Assistant Head
Mrs		<u> </u>		Head of Year 11
Mrs	Gregory	KGregory@warnefordschool.org	Geography	
Mr	Hanson	JHanson@warnefordschool.org	Music	Head of Department
Ms	Hardy	KHardy@warnefordschool.org	Maths	Upod of Humanitias Faculty
_	Heard	CHeard@warnefordschool.org	Geography	Head of Humanities Faculty
	Hills	SHills@warnefordschool.org	Maths	SENDCO
Mr	Hind	MHind@warnefordschool.org	Maths DT	
Mrs	Kennedy	RKennedy@warnefordschool.org	1	
Mrs	Lakey	SLakey@warnefordschool.org	PE	Head of Department
Mrs	Lewis	CLewis@warnefordschool.org	Maths	
-	Lovatt	ELovatt@warnefordschool.org	Art	Used of Familia
Mr	Mangham	PMangham@warnefordschool.org	ICT/Business	Head of Faculty
Mr	McGuigan	JMcGuigan@warnefordschool.org	PE	5
Mr	McKinstry	SMcKinstry@warnefordschool.org	Maths	Deputy Head
Mrs	McLennan	KMcLennan@warnefordschool.org	Drama	Head of Department
	McPherson	LMcPherson@warnefordschool.org	DT /DE	
	Needham	JNeedham@warnefordschool.org	Science/RE	
_	Neil	KNeil@warnefordschool.org	Geography	
	Niazi	CNiazi@warnefordschool.org	RE	Head of Department
	Nye	MNye@warnefordschool.org	History	Deputy Head
Mr	Pearson	APearson@warnefordschool.org	Science	
Mr	Richardson	DRichardson@warnefordschool.org	Science	
Ms	Sayers	DSayers@warnefordschool.org	MFL	
_	Scott	RScott@warnefordschool.org	ICT	
_	Sharps	ASharps@warnefordschool.org	PE	
	Shellard	RShellard@warnefordschool.org	Maths	Head of Faculty
Mrs	Short	AShort@warnefordschool.org	Science	
Mrs	Simpson	LSimpson@warnefordschool.org	MFL	
Mr	Southwood	PSouthwood@warnefordschool.org	English	Associate Assistant Handle L. C.V.
	Stanley	FStanley@warnefordschool.org	Science	Associate Assistant Head/Head of Year 9
	Steele	ASteele@warnefordschool.org	History	Headteacher
Mrs	Terry-Collins	ACollins@warnefordschool.org	Art	
Ms	Townsend	JTownsend@warnefordschool.org	MFL	Upped of Foreigns
Mr	Turney	JTurney@warnefordschool.org	MFL	Head of Faculty
Mrs	Tyler	VTyler@warnefordschool.org	History	
Mrs	Wakeley	AWakeley@warnefordschool.org	English	

Appendix B – Some Online Resources

For when you need to find something else for them to do! This includes some primary-age resources.

Khan Academy

www.khanacademy.org

Especially good for maths and computing for all ages but other subjects at secondary level. Note this uses the US 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.

Futurelearn

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

www.senecalearning.com

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

Openlearn

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

blockly.games

Learn computer programming skills - fun and free.

Scratch

scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/

Creative computer programming

Ted Ed

ed.ted.com

All sorts of engaging educational videos

National Geographic Kids

www.natgeokids.com/uk/

Activities and quizzes for younger kids.

Duolingo

www.duolingo.com

Learn languages for free. Web or app.

Mystery Science

mysteryscience.com

Free science lessons

The Kids Should See This

thekidshouldseethis.com

Wide range of educational videos

Crash Course

thecrashcourse.com

You Tube videos on many subjects

Crash Course Kids

m.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids

As above for a younger audience

Crest Awards

www.crestawards.org

Science awards you can complete from home.

Paw Print Badges

www.pawprintbadges.co.uk

Free challenge packs and other downloads. Many activities can be completed indoors. Badges cost but are optional.

Tinkercad

www.tinkercad.com

All kinds of making

Prodigy Maths

www.prodigygame.com

Is in US grades but good for UK primary age

CBeebies Radio

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio

Listening activities for the younger ones.

Nature Detectives

naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/

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

British Council

www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find

Resources for English language learning

Oxford Owl for Home

www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/

Lots of free resources for primary age

Big History Project

www.bighistoryproject.com/home

Multi-disciplinary activities.

Geography Games

world-geography-games.com/world.html

Geography gaming!

Blue Peter Badges

www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges

If you have a stamp and a nearby post box.

The Artful Parent

www.facebook.com/artfulparent/

Good, free art activities

Red Ted Art

www.redtedart.com

Easy arts and crafts for little ones

The Imagination Tree

theimaginationtree.com

Creative art and craft activities for the very youngest

Toy Theater

toytheater.com/

Educational online games

DK Find Out

siXmrac

Activities and quizzes