

8 January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

### **Academy Update – Home Learning – 8 January 2021**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families again for your support over the last week and I would like to also congratulate all our students that have been completing the home learning, which has been set online.

I am writing following my letter earlier in the week to provide you with some additional information and update you on the activities and resources your child will be provided with during the period of closure.

As outlined in my letter on Wednesday we have moved our method of delivery of home learning to Microsoft Teams for all students, as this provides us more flexibility to deliver a high quality home learning package. Each week your child's class teacher will be setting assignments with a number of activities, which should be completed and submitted back to their class teacher. In addition, we will also be engaging with children and providing an opportunity for live subject webinar sessions; which students will be expected to attend as this will support their learning and provide an opportunity for any questions to be asked. We will also be providing live webinar sessions weekly in Form Groups which allows us to deliver key messages to students.

In order to ensure we have a successful launch of the live webinars we will be introducing these staggered over two weeks. We will be delivering weekly Form webinars from **Monday 11 January** and subject webinars will be delivered to students from **Monday 18 January**. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the home learning webinar schedule and the times these sessions will take place. We have also enclosed with the letter a Home Learning Timetable which your child should use to help them organise their time but please note that the form webinars are scheduled during lunch sessions and subjects webinars may clash with the Home Learning Timetable – we advise your child should still attend these sessions and complete any missed work at an alternative time. In addition, your child will receive a calendar invite to their email account for the webinars which they will use to login. Further information will be provided to students via their academy email address. The website has been updated to make access to the home learning as easy as possible, it also includes videos which explain how to use Microsoft Teams on computers, tablets and smart phones as well as guidance of how to deal with issues with passwords. Your child needs their email address and password to access their work. Your child is also able to access Microsoft Office programs through this service. It is important that your child follows our clear guidelines when participating in any live Microsoft Teams event and we ask for your support to ensure these expectations are met.

To provide further information about the work available through Microsoft Teams we will be holding a webinar for students in each curriculum phase on Monday 11 January 2021 with their Director of Curriculum Phase. These sessions will take place at the following times and students have already received an email inviting them to join.

- Year 7 – 10am
- Year 8 and 9 – 11am
- Year 10 and 11 – 12pm

Whilst students are working from home we also wanted to take this opportunity to remind families of some key important guidance to support your child with home learning

- Ensure your child has a quiet area of the home to work in during the day
- Ensure your child is taking regular breaks and following the timetable of work set which is enclosed with this pack
- Ensure your child is wearing their school uniform to support with live learning and also to ensure they are prepared and ready for the day ahead
- Please make sure your child has a core routine which they follow every day to create structure which supports their learning
- Ensure your child starts the day with all the resources they need and reduce any background distractions
- Following the guidelines regarding remote learning sent out earlier in the week
- Ensure your child is completing all work and submitting this back to their class teacher for all assignments

### **Paper Based Home Learning**

We made you aware on Wednesday that we will also be providing all Year 7 – 9 students with a range of workbooks and revision guides. These have now been packaged and will be dispatched by Monday 11 January 2020 to families arriving early next week and will provide resources for English, Maths, Science, Geography and History. Year 10 and Year 11 students have been issued these resources before the Christmas break. These resources are additional resources to compliment the learning which is available on our Microsoft Teams platform



and enclosed with this letter is a timetable which outlines what content your child should be reading and revising and outlines what activities should be completed. We will be sending out a weekly updated list of activities using these resources and putting these on our website [www.dixonsco.com](http://www.dixonsco.com).

We appreciate that some families may experience issues with internet access or IT access please contact the academy and speak to the Director of Curriculum / Assistant Director of Curriculum Phase if you need support with this.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the academy by emailing: [info@dixonsco.com](mailto:info@dixonsco.com)

Yours sincerely



**Jason Patterson**  
Principal