



George Mitchell School

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7th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

RE: Important information and Remote Learning

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well. Following the government announcement on Monday regarding the lockdown and the school closures, I am writing to provide you with further information on your child's education in the weeks ahead.

Remote Learning

It is imperative that your son/daughter receives the highest quality of remote education possible in order to ensure that he/she continues to progress and achieve accordingly as soon as we return to face-to-face lessons. Our highly capable and skilled teachers are currently setting up an extensive provision on Google Classroom, Show My Homework and other platforms to ensure that effective learning continues.

All students in year 10 and year 11 will receive live streamed lessons where possible. This means your child will need to log on to Google Classroom and join a live lesson **daily** which will be scheduled at the normal time, follow their standard school timetable.

It is particularly critical for year 11 to attend all remote lessons as, given GCSE exams will not take place in the usual way, teachers are likely to be making a predicated grade to submit to the exam board, that will be used to award the final GCSE grade. For this, teachers will need to provide **evidence based on online engagement** as well as previously covered work. If a student is not attending live steamed lessons, this may significantly affect the GCSE grade that they are awarded. This may then limit the college options for your child. In order to ensure the highest GCSE grade, please ensure you son/daughter is completing all online work set and to the highest standard. Our staff are on hand to support your child, 1-1 if need be, at any time.

Students in years 7, 8 and 9 may also receive some live lessons alongside a variety of other work set including extended project work, which was a particular success during the first lockdown.

Supporting your child

We understand the considerable pressures and stresses that lockdown brings for families and we would like you to know that we are here for you if you need us. It is very important you are aware of the work set for your child and that you ensure that they access the work **every day**.

It is also very important for your child to have a **structured routine** at home, with set times for studying and set times for relaxation. In order to maintain positive mental wellbeing habits, we would actively recommend building in short breaks during longer periods of study and also having at least 2 hours a day away from a screen (iPads, TVs, phones, computers). **Please construct a study plan with your child and help them stick to it.**



Assessments and Grades

We cannot wait to see our students back in school. Shortly after their return, your child will have a test in every subject to assess how much of the work they have learned during the lockdown period. We will then provide you with a report based on these assessments and give you an idea of how well your child is progressing and achieving.

Summary

- Construct a study timetable together and check this daily.
- Ensure your son/daughter logs onto Google Classroom each morning.
- The number of hours of study per day may vary, however as a rough guide, your son/daughter will need to study for at least as long as their lessons are at school.
- Contact the school if you need further support. Our heads of year can offer support and advice. Our IT technician, Mr Tooray is on hand to help with any password issues. Please email him on balrajyot@georgemitchellschool.co.uk. A demonstration on how to log onto Google Classroom can be found here: <http://www.georgemitchellschool.com/coronavirus-work-for-home-study/>

Contacting the school

In these challenging times, you will no doubt have a considerable number of questions and queries and we would like to address your concerns as quickly as possible. Please could I ask you **avoid calling the school office** as our office staff are under immense pressure at the moment. Please could I ask you to contact the school by email instead, as follows:

- If you have a general enquiry or if your child tests positive for Covid-19, please email: georgemitchell@georgemitchellschool.co.uk
- If you have individual enquiries which are particular to your child, please email the Head of Year:
Year 7 – Ms Tomkins: marissa.tomkins@georgemitchellschool.co.uk
Year 8 – Ms Lad: maya.lad@georgemitchellschool.co.uk
Year 9 – Ms Enache: alina.enache@georgemitchellschool.co.uk
Year 10 – Ms Hadaway: joanna.hadaway@georgemitchellschool.co.uk
Year 11 – Mr Hussain: umar.hussain@georgemitchellschool.co.uk

At George Mitchell School we have the highest expectations of all our students. I would like to reiterate Mr Hussain's assurance that despite the restrictions of this new lockdown, all our staff are here to support you and to ensure that all students at George Mitchell School continue to learn and make progress. There is no doubt in my mind that we will get through this particularly trying period together as a school community and all our thoughts are with you.

Warm regards,



Kateryna Law
Head of Secondary | Deputy Headteacher

