

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that you and your family are keeping well. Whilst Mr Rand's letter details some of the activities taking place at school, this update is specifically on the home learning programme.

We endeavour to extend our offer, taking a weekly review, so that provision is sustainable and equitable for all. We are also planning ahead for September and the possibility that remote learning may continue into the next academic year. Our recent preparation includes training staff on Microsoft Teams® so that it can be trialled and then introduced. **If you rely on the SMHW app, please activate an 'update' so that you (and your son/daughter) are ready to receive any future invitations for a meeting on 'Teams'.**

As a school, we have developed a variety of learning opportunities which have been posted on SMHW. Here is a snap shot from last week:

- **MFL:** years 8 and 10 had 'Loom' presentations by Miss Jones; there was also an MP4 video recording by Mr Popham for year 7. Most year groups had MP3 listening files and links to relevant You Tube videos. 'Culture Corner' continues; last week: cooking quiche!
- **Science:** Mr Shaw made a video presentation focused on the application of a mark scheme for years 9 and 10. The department's resources are extremely thorough and well organised and, as of next week, will include more video presentations by staff.
- **English:** years 7 to 9 have regular quizzes on SPAG and, for Y10, there are quizzes on 'Lord of the Flies'. Last week, there was also an MP4 video presentation on Simon's character – the previous week it was about 'brutality' in the novel. The English department has also referred students to professionally produced audio books.
- **Geography:** Miss Guthrie made an MP4 video presentation for years 8 and 10, and there were helpful links to BBC Bitesize and 'You Tube' for years 7 and 9. As of next week, more members of the department are posting video presentations for KS3 classes
- **Mathematics:** many KS3 classes use MyMaths lessons and quizzes, Corbett Maths videos on You Tube and a variety of powerpoint presentations which have been differentiated for each class.
- **The creative subjects:** Y8 art (comic book drawing) and DT (fabric design) and the music department has focused on preparation for the Y7 song writing project using *Soundtrap*, while year 8 have been listening to Reggae

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We are aware that increasing the range of materials brings a number of online access problems for some families – e.g. pupils working on an iphone or ipad often struggle with Microsoft® products, and one laptop/PC per household can cause resourcing difficulties. We thank those families who have contacted us when material is not accessible. We seek solutions to the access problems experienced by some, and to gather information about what works best for most pupils.

And finally, our last 'Enrichment / Catch up Week' for years 7, 8 and 9 will start on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. For some pupils, this is a chance to catch up; for others it is an opportunity to develop subject knowledge and understanding through a range of activities. For pupils in year 10, the week will be a combination of the work set on 'Show My Homework' and the continuation of the 'face to face' provision.

We hope, over time, to see more pupils invited on to the school site and thank you for your feedback on, and support of, home learning.



Karen John

SENCO and Assistant Headteacher

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