

Principal: Delia Smith OBE

Thursday 21st January 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Online School and how we might be able to help with Mobile Data

I hope this finds you safe and well. We wanted to let you know the key features of our **Online School**, which is successfully established, and how we **might be able to support your child**.

Features of Online School

- **All pupils are expected to attend Online School for all lessons** and we had an average of 90%+ last week. We follow up daily on non-attendance with messages home and phone calls.
- **Online School is done through MS Teams** which can be accessed from laptop/computer/phone or Games Console (more details below)
- **Pupils work in books and online**. Teachers ask for submission of work in most lessons. Non submission is followed up with calls from teachers.
- **Homework continues and is monitored through the online platform SMHW**. We are streamlining and shortening homework, so that it focusses on building key knowledge and skills, and so it can be accessed and completed by every student. We continue to track the percentage of homework completed, and tutors will call you if there are concerns with completion.
- **It is normal for pupils to feel a bit fatigued at the end of the school day** – particularly when getting used to new circumstances – e.g. Online School. It is important to build good working habits. Heads of Year shared their powerful habits with pupils in the last assembly. We suggest a break/exercise after an Online School day, and then tackling the (streamlined) homework.

Support

1. **Mobile Data** – support is available through a Government Scheme which tops up data on mobile phones so your child can always access Online School, even if Wi-Fi is down. If you would like to use this scheme, please complete this form by Monday 25 Jan latest –[click here](#).
2. **Laptops** – we have distributed 360 laptops across the school, and every device is now out of the building. We have requested more, but we don't know yet how many and when these will arrive. Please be in touch with the Tutor or Head of Year to let us know if you would like to add your name to the Waiting List.



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3. **Access through Games Consoles** – Remarkably, Xbox and Playstation both access Office 365 (which includes pupils' email accounts and MS Teams), and this can be an interim solution. Further instructions are below. So your child can work on this device properly, we recommend getting a keyboard (<£10 from Amazon). This would be a better work experience than working on the phone.

Please be in touch if you have questions or requests for support.

With best wishes,

Tom Sawbridge

Vice Principal – Quality of Education

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Games Console – Instructions

See Video - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfr\\$CeedsmE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfr$CeedsmE)

Or Written Instructions -

Using Xbox or PlayStation to access Office 365

Accessing your remote learning. An alternative method of accessing remote learning during times of lockdown.

Xbox

1. Plug a keyboard in to the Xbox USB slot (less than £10 from Amazon)
2. Go in to my games and apps
3. Find Microsoft Edge and select
4. Type in [Office 365](#) and log in as you would in school
5. You can then access your work and use key packages including:
 - Word
 - Excel
 - PowerPoint
 - Teams
 - Your emails
6. To move around you use the Xbox controller or plug in a mouse

PlayStation

1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (It is WWW with dots around it)
2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications
4. Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser
5. Type in [Office 365](#) and log in as you would in school
6. You can then access your work and use key packages including:
 - Word
 - Excel
 - PowerPoint
 - Teams
 - Your emails