



PARKSIDE

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Small School ♦ Strong Values ♦ Great Experiences

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, may I extend a warm welcome to our new students joining Parkside. We are all eagerly anticipating returning to classroom teaching and whilst there will be some changes made to the curriculum as we adapt to the current situation, we will continue to provide an ambitious, broad curriculum to all students.

Through this letter, I would like to outline the key teaching and learning changes we will be making for the foreseeable future, as we learn to adapt our teaching whilst adhering to government guidelines and ensuring that students remain safe in classrooms and around the school.

Through our student induction programme, we have discussed these changes in detail with all students. The main changes include:

- KS3 students will remain in an allocated classroom for the majority of their school day. This is to ensure that year groups remain in year group 'bubbles'.
- KS4 students will remain in their year zone, but will change classrooms more frequently due to grouping for specialist option subjects.
- All resources are being provided for students through individual learning packs containing: pens, pencil, highlighter pen, ruler, whiteboard and whiteboard pen. These packs will stay in school. Each student will have their own pack, which will not be shared with other students.
- Staff will plan activities which identify any gaps in learning due to lockdown, and will subsequently adapt and modify planning accordingly.
- A new independent learning homework system (see below for more details) will be introduced which will build on our established practices and support stronger independent learning in the future.

Our teaching and learning throughout the lockdown period was generally successful, and saw many technological advances; including an increased student use of Show My Homework (SMHW), the use of Loom/YouTube videos and our online 'live' lessons. We wish to continue to incorporate some of the advancements we have made in these areas this term. We know that many parents and students will be concerned about the amount of teaching time they have missed over the past 5 months but please rest assured that our dedicated staff have planned and organised the curriculum carefully so that your child will not be disadvantaged in their studies.

For students in KS3, one of the ways you can further support your child and their return to school, is to ensure that independent learning tasks are completed. Homework is an important part of the learning process, as it provides the student

with an opportunity to retrieve prior learning and apply it to new learning or consolidate their existing knowledge. This term, we would like you to support your child's learning by encouraging them to complete the independent tasks set on SMHW on a fortnightly basis. Independent learning tasks will be issued as of week commencing 5th October. Teaching staff will be uploading links to videos which will re-cap the core learning covered in lessons over a 2-week period, and asking students to complete an online activity which will demonstrate whether your child is secure in their learning.

In order to support your child, you should:

- ✓ Find your child a quiet space to work at home if possible and minimise any distractions.
- ✓ Talk to your child about their learning, encouraging them to complete all independent learning tasks.
- ✓ Ask them to explain to you what they have learnt.
- ✓ If your child is struggling with a task and you don't know how to help them, tell your child not to worry. Encourage your child to leave a message via SMHW for the class teacher and ask for additional guidance
- ✓ Continue to encourage your child to read for pleasure
- ✓ SMHW will remain the primary method of communication between staff/students/parents, therefore it is imperative that all students are able to access SMHW from the outset of this term.

We will continue to use SMHW as a way of communicating the homework which is being set. SMHW can be accessed online, or via a downloadable app. Students in years 8-11 should continue to use their existing personal log-in and our new Y7 have all been given their SMHW log-in details during their induction session. By downloading the SMHW App, parents can also monitor homework which is being set, and view the feedback which is being given to your child. I have provided a really useful parental guide link for SMHW below, which I hope you will find informative:

[SMHW Parental Guide](#)

If anyone cannot access SMHW, please contact me immediately using the email address below so that we can resolve any issues swiftly.

If your child does miss school due to illness or self-isolation, accessing the videos and learning activities set on SMHW will ensure that your child keeps up to date with their learning. Additional work will also be provided for any extended absence due to Covid. Should we need to return to remote education due to a local lockdown, further details will be issued immediately, including detailed plans for online teaching.

If you wish to discuss anything in further detail with me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Mrs Asher
Director of Teaching and Head of MFL
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