

May 15th 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Students in Year 9,

I hope that you and your family and friends are keeping safe and well during this challenging period.

I am writing to you to inform you of our revised plan for Home Learning in Year 9 and to share with you a suggested timetable for your child to follow whilst they are unable to come to school.

When the school building closed in March, we asked that students completed work in line with their usual school timetable and many tasks set for those 5 lessons a day required at least partial access to a computer or laptop. As the government directive to 'stay at home' has progressed, we recognise that the demands of the home environment - and all the personal responsibilities that all members of the household are trying to fulfil – mean that this expectation needs to be reviewed.

Revised Home Learning Timetable

As of Monday 18th May, Year 9 students will follow a new timetable. **This is attached to your email.** This timetable provides 3 work sessions a day and 1 on a Friday and builds in time on a Friday afternoon for your child to catch up on any unfinished work or attempt some of the extension tasks they may have been set during the week. By streamlining the timetable, we are simplifying your child's 'to do' list and enabling them to complete all work in time for the weekend. We have also suggested time slots for physical exercise and reading (both essential for your child's development and well-being) although of course, your child may wish to change the order of these to suit their preferences. We strongly recommend that you use this timetable to help your child structure their day.

Communication from Staff

The timetable has also been devised to reduce the amount of emails that have to be sent, for students and for staff. Tuesday and Thursday are days when your child should not receive any emails from teachers about their work and on a Friday, they will receive just one from their Head of Year. Work can be completed on a computer but please do reassure your child that if a computer is unavailable, it is perfectly acceptable to work on paper and send a photo of the work from a mobile phone, ensuring that it is well presented and that the title of the email includes the topic of the work and their name.

Home Learning is Different

We understand that this may be a worrying time for your child regarding their GCSE and BTEC courses. Please explain to them that during this period, they are not expected to be learning exactly as they would normally do in the classroom. It will be our responsibility to make sure that they go on to achieve their full potential when they return to school. We will be able to set them right back on track upon their return. Please remind them that trying their best is important at the moment but that their teachers also recognise that during this unprecedented time, some days are easier than others.

Our Home Learning Plan aims for your child are for them to consolidate their knowledge and practise skills based on units they have been taught in school and to be *broadly* introduced to new concepts from future units. We also aim for them to be provided with structure and interest in order for them to maintain a positive mindset. As well as completing the academic work set by teachers, please continue to encourage them to try new skills and allow themselves to be creative during this time. Some websites that you might like to try are:

www.tate.org.uk/kids

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/kids-cooking>

<https://www.pobble365.com/>

<https://www.songacademy.co.uk/>

If you have any questions about the devised Home Learning plan, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Heads of Year or Form Tutors. Here is a reminder of their contact details:

Head of Year ciara.mcnamara@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk

Deputy Head of Year gordon.davis@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk

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9CO lucy.mcgarra@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk

9DA keith.lematti@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk

9EP ben.thorne@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk

9JB tony.coyle@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk

9JP mark.charge@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk

9MK sean.oconnell@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk

9MY arissa.buckley@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk

9NM emmanouella.charalambous@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk

9RP kaitlyn.bagnell@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to send you and your child my very best wishes,

Emily Tudor

Vice Principal: Teaching & Learning