



HEDINGHAM SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

8 January 2021

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Home Learning Update

As we enter this next period of remote learning, it is important that we continually provide a transparency about how things are progressing, sharing the good news, the areas that require development and where we are planning to evolve our provision. This is in light of what we have learned from our own experiences alongside your feedback.

Your involvement as parents in this process is vital and we thank you for all of the hard work that you are putting in to support your children with their learning whilst, no doubt, trying to juggle numerous other priorities.

Successes:

- We have been pleased with the start that many students have made with their home learning in this first week of a new term. It is a difficult time of the year to get motivated especially with the wider challenges that society currently faces. However, it has been encouraging to see so many of our students show a proactive and committed approach to establishing a home learning structure.
- We have worked to increase the interactive nature of remote learning at Key Stage 4 and 5, with a far higher number of “Live” lessons and “drop in” sessions where students can address misconceptions.
- Engagement levels are good and many students are showing excellent independence and self-regulation in consistently attending lessons, as well as completing and returning work.
- There have been some amazing pieces of work completed by students and returned to their teachers.

Development Areas:

- Although general engagement is good, there are pockets of students that have shown very low, if any, engagement. We are using systems to track this closely and will follow up a lack of engagement with telephone calls next week. We aim to break down any barriers that are preventing home learning and ensure that students are not disadvantaged longer term by missing vital teaching content that will be delivered remotely.
- We are looking to amend the remote provision at Year 7, 8 and 9 to include a greater number of “live” lessons. Although a balance of live provision and independent time to complete tasks is important, we need further work to get this balance right. A variety is important to cater for the needs of all students.
- We would like students to build confidence with asking their teachers questions when in live sessions. We are conscious that there is a hesitancy and nervousness with this and hope that this eases over time to allow for a more interactive, two-way learning process.
- We have had some technical issues with Microsoft Teams. Unfortunately, this is a national issue and one that they are quickly trying to resolve.

Next Steps:

- A new KS3 timetable of lessons will be circulated next week. This will include a greater percentage of scheduled live lessons each day.
- Closer monitoring of student productivity and engagement will begin with follow up calls to parents where there are concerns.
- A virtual Q&A event for parents of students in Year 11 and 13 will be available on Wednesday 13 January to explore remote learning and discuss announcements surrounding summer exams.
- We hope to see more students in Years 10 and 11 taking the opportunity to attend the English, Maths and Science drop-ins that run daily at 3.00 pm. These are designed to allow students to ask questions and receive guidance if they are “stuck”. Students have been emailed a timetable of when these are available by Mrs Cook.

Support:

- Please keep us informed of any issues in relation to remote learning. We welcome your feedback (positives or suggestions for improvement) and there are feedback forms available through the home learning area of the school website. Alternatively, please contact Mrs Cook, Assistant Headteacher hed.cookn@hedingham.essex.sch.uk

I will endeavor to continue to keep you informed of developments as we move through this half term. Please take care and stay safe.

Your sincerely



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