



25 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach day 4 of home study, I am writing to you with some more guidance on how you can best support your child at home, as well as communicating some changes we have made to our timelines which we hope you will find helpful.

As we have communicated [previously](#), the first phase of home learning involves our students spending time revising and reviewing their learning from this academic year. As per the letter I sent out yesterday, please encourage your children to break their days down into chunks, studying different subjects and completing different activities. I thought it might be helpful to give some indication of how much your child should or could be working at home, currently, on each of their examined subjects up until the point of their Year 10 exams. That said, to help you all, I would recommend the following “ranges”:

Subject	Number of hours
English	15-20
English Literature	15-20
Maths	15-20
Science – Double	30-40
<i>Science Triple</i>	<i>15-20 (only taken by some students)</i>
Option 1	15-20
Option 2	15-20
Option 3	15-20
Total: 120-160 (+ extra for triple science)	

Had school been operating as normal, Matt Ford, Assistant Headteacher, would have contacted you on Friday, 10 weeks in advance of the Year 10 exams, to share with you what students needed to revise for this period. We would have expected students to revise for about two hours each day, or across the course of one week, about 12 hours. This takes us to the figure of 120 hours above or, for those students who prefer to revise more, or feel they need to revise more, a higher amount.

Given that students are now no longer attending school as normal, they obviously have far more time in which to self-study and revise. As a result, we are going to pull the exam period forward for Year 10 to the fortnight commencing May 11th. We have also done this so that students don't feel that they are revising for too long a period of time, and so that we can move into “phase 2” of their home learning (more on this later in this letter).

If students revise for 5 hours a day, for their normal school days, and then do half that amount over the fortnightly Easter holiday (assuming that parents welcome this, given that students are unable to fill their days with what they would previously have been doing over the Easter Break), the distribution of and total amount of hours spent revising would look like this:

Week	Suggested hours worked	Total
Thursday 26 th and Friday 27 th March	2 x 5	10
w/c 30 th March	5 x 5	25
w/c 6 th April	5 x 2.5	12.5
w/c 13 th April	5 x 2.5	12.5
w/c 20 th April	5 x 5	25
w/c 27 th April	5 x 5	25
w/c 4 th May	5 x 5	25
		Total = 135

If students self-study as above, they should be sufficiently prepared for their exams and will have covered a little more than the 120 hours recommended minimum.

Whilst students should be able to revise over the next few days using the Master Revision Guide (they have all had workshops on how to use this effectively this academic year), I have asked all Heads of Department to give you more detailed guidance to support students' self-study. I have asked them to suggest 15 one-hour revision sessions as a minimum with extension activities for those students who wish to revise more. I hope you agree that this will be useful. Matt Ford will be working to ensure these are all made available to your child by Friday 3rd April.

As per previous correspondence, it is always useful to get students to make suggestions as to what they would want to study, to get more "buy in" from them. I would strongly recommend that you create a timetable with your children, broken into hourly sessions like the school day with which they are familiar, and then get them to choose from the 15 revision sessions each day. We would recommend that students do an hour of exercise a day as part of their timetable, a full week's version of which might look something like this:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	English Literature	English	English Literature	English	English/English Literature
2	Maths	Option 1	Maths	Option 1	Maths
3	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness
4	Science	Option 3	Science	Option 1	Science
5	Option 2	Science	Option 2	Science	Option 2/3

This is not an exact science and, clearly, students will want to study for different subjects more or less depending on how confident they feel in each. Students who have Art, 3D design or Food and Nutrition as options won't need to revise for written exams.

We will make exam papers available for all students on "Show My Homework". These will be posted on Monday 11th May. Students' exams should be completed by Friday 22nd May and then send them back to teachers for marking via their school email address where possible. If students don't send their work to be marked, it is not a major issue. The most important thing is that they will have had the experience of revising for and completing the exams in a defined window, just as they will need to in Year 11.

Teachers will mark submitted work and use this to identify students' strengths and areas for development for teaching them when they return to school. We are currently exploring whether any online assessments can be taken in some subject areas. If this becomes possible, we will inform you in due course.

Once the exam window is completed, students will move into the next phase of their home learning, assuming the school is still closed. At this point, students will be asked to carry out "pre-learning" which will be of great use to them when they return to school.

We will ensure that this learning helps students to meet the learning objectives which would have been set out in lessons across half term 5. In some cases, setting on-line learning might be straight forward – e.g. setting Hegarty Maths videos (and watching the videos would be crucial for new learning (as opposed to students choosing to just do the quizzes for revision)) for Maths or Active Learning Online for Languages. For other subjects, this may be trickier, particularly if learning in school would have been dependent on resources which would not be available to all students at home. This might be as simple as a reading book in English, or more complicated – e.g. practical experiments in Science.

As a teaching staff, we will be working through all of these complications over the next few days and weeks and will keep in touch with you as we develop the best programmes for your children.

Please be assured that we are already thinking about how we ensure students will not be disadvantaged for next academic year, and we are currently rethinking and reshaping our curriculum in its entirety to make sure all students have required knowledge and understanding for the future.

Finally, my senior colleagues and I will be in contact with a group of parents to ask you about your experiences of supporting your child at home based on the guidance and resources we are providing. By listening to you along the way, both in terms of what is going well and what we should change, we would hope to be continually improving our provision for your children.

Thank you for your ongoing support in maximising your child's learning whilst they are at home – it really is very much appreciated.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Mat Hunter
Headteacher