



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. That said, to help you all, I would recommend the following “ranges”:

Year 7, 8 and 9 exams

Subject	Number of hours
English	8-16
Maths	8-16
Science	8-16
History	8-16
Geography	8-16
French or Spanish	8-16
	<b>Total: 48-96</b>

When Matt Ford, Assistant Headteacher, sent the original communication out about the exams for Year 7 and 8, before we were aware of school closure, he made it clear that students were being given early notification of exam preparation to give them sufficient time to revise. This notification supported a preparation period of approximately 8 weeks. We would have expected students to revise for about an hour each day, or across the course of one week, about 6 hours. This takes us to the figure of 48 hours above or, for those students who prefer to revise more, or feel they need to revise more, anywhere up to double the amount. Information and revision guidance was released for Year 9 students via *Show My Homework* in the final week before the partial closure of the school; an earlier date than usual in order to provide those students with revision to do during the suspension of the regular curriculum. At date of release, this would have given Year 9 students around 10 weeks to prepare for their exams.

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 periods forward for Year 7, 8 and 9 to the week commencing April 20<sup>th</sup> (the first Monday after the scheduled Easter holiday). 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, their normal school day, for the next week and two 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:

<b>Week</b>	<b>Suggested hours worked</b>	<b>Total</b>
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	2 x 5	10
w/c 30 <sup>th</sup> March	5 x 5	25
w/c 6 <sup>th</sup> April	5 x 2.5	12.5
w/c 13 <sup>th</sup> April	5 x 2.5	12.5
		<b>Total = 60</b>

If students self-study as above, they should be sufficiently prepared for their exams and will have covered a little more than the 48 hours recommended minimum.

I have asked all Heads of Department to give you more detailed guidance to support students' self-study. I have asked them to suggest 8 one-hour revision sessions as a minimum and 8 two-hour sessions, with extension activities, for those students who wish to revise more. Please see an example of these suggestions attached to this Parentmail. I hope you agree that it will be useful. The rest will be uploaded on "Show My Homework" by the end of Friday once our colleagues have had chance to complete them.

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 8 revision sessions each day. Of course, it won't be exactly the same as their normal timetable, as they won't be studying all subjects (e.g. Art, Music, Computing, etc). 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:

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
1	English	English	English	English	History
2	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Geography
3	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness
4	Science	Science	History/Geography	Science	Science
5	French/Spanish	French/Spanish	History	Geography	French/Spanish

As per our previous communications, we will make exam papers available for all students on "Show My Homework". These will be posted on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Students' exams should be completed by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 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. Please bear in mind that, at this point, the curriculum will be more diverse than just subjects studied for examination purposes (i.e students may well be given tasks in music, art, ICT, etc.).

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.

We would expect phase 2 to end at the end of Half Term 5. At this stage, we are not planning beyond this as we, clearly, do not yet know what the impact of the spread of the virus will be and, therefore, whether schools will be reopening in Term 6 or not.

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**