

24/04/2020

Dear Parents,

Many thanks for your continued support. We are constantly looking to adapt and improve the way we are delivering our remote learning. Apologies that this is a rather long letter but I wanted to share a few thoughts on live teaching, supporting deadlines and handwriting.

Live teaching

As we, our community of boys, staff and parents, have settled into #LearnAtHome we are looking to enhance the opportunities to teach, interact with and support your sons.

We are pleased to offer #LiveTeaching from Monday 27th, where teachers will be able to video-conference with classes, via the Office365 Team Platform. We have worked hard to ensure this process is as smooth as possible and all safeguarding considerations are included. We look forward to adding this positive step to our provision.

May I stress, however, it is at the discretion of the teacher should they wish to teach in this way. Many of our teachers have young children, and/or other pressures on their home lives; it may be more appropriate for them to teach via fixed resource on Teams, and in this we ask for your support and understanding.

Initiatives such as this rely on community cooperation; all parties must play their part responsibly. To this end, we would be grateful if you could please read the guidance at the bottom of this letter with your son. As you can see, we will take his participation in any #LiveTeach lessons from 27th April as his agreement to these expectations.

Supporting Deadlines

As in school, we need to be able to support all our students and chase them up on the rare occasion when deadlines are not being met. We understand these are extreme times and on certain days technology may fail and family circumstances might change so that meeting deadlines become incredibly challenging or impossible!

If your son does miss a deadline for handing in work, the staff member will drop him a note via teams to give him a reminder. If this does not lead to a response parents and pupil will receive an email and potentially a Behaviour Point. Our aim with this step is asking for your support in getting the work handed in. As mentioned in the top paragraph, there is often genuine reason for this, so please let us know (attendance@rgshw.com) and we will inform the teacher and remove any Points that may have been issued. We do not wish to cause undue upset and want to work with you and your son, so do keep us informed.

You will no doubt have heard in the press that many students will fall behind during this period of lockdown; we don't want that to be the case for any of our boys. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Handwriting

I write like a spider (or doctor), it is almost as though I write in my own special code. It has deteriorated as I have got older and have used computers more. In this current climate this situation is exacerbated for your young men. Please do remind them every now and again to pick up a pen or pencil. At present, all formal exams will continue to be done on paper (except in exceptional circumstances) and we need to be prepared for that.

Online Remote Learning Responsible User Agreement

ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE GUIDANCE AND RULES CONTAINED WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT.

Your parents have been made aware of this guidance, and your participation in any use of the RGSHW Office365 platform from Monday 27 April onwards will indicate your agreement with these rules. It is to be used in conjunction with other RGS policies for example the School Rules and the [RGS Behaviour Policy](#)

Rules

- I will be responsible for my behaviour and actions when using technology (Teams and other interactive applications), this includes the resources I access and the language I use.
- I will only use technology for school purposes as directed by my teacher.
- I will only use Office365Teams #LiveTeaching when directed by the teacher. I will not record or take photos of my classmates or teachers during a #LiveTeaching session.
- I will make sure that all my communication with students, teachers or others using technology is responsible and sensible. If sending an email I will only use my school email account.
- When contacting your teachers this should be done mainly through submitting your work through Teams.
- I will not reveal my passwords to anyone.
- I will not deliberately browse, download, upload or forward material that could be considered as potentially upsetting to someone, offensive or illegal. If I accidentally come across any such material I will report it immediately to my teacher and/or my parent.
- I understand that when using Teams and other applications provided by the school that my use can be monitored and logged and can be made available to my teachers.
- I understand that these rules are designed to help keep me safe and that if they are not followed, school sanctions will be applied and my parent may be contacted.

Guidelines

When using #LiveTeaching, remember that this is an extension of the classroom and you should conduct yourself as you would in a classroom. This includes:

- When you are on #LiveTeams you need to be in your living room, dining room or kitchen. Never join #LiveTeams from your bedroom.
- Please be on time for your interactive session
- Be dressed appropriately for learning (i.e. no pyjamas)

- Remain attentive during sessions
- Interact patiently and respectfully with your teachers and peers. Use polite language and correct formalities (you are not talking to a friend).
- Do NOT record other student's online interactions.
- Please ensure you end the session as soon as the teacher indicates to do so.

Thank you for your continued support. I hope you all have an enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards,

Alex Wallace
Deputy Headmaster