

18 January, 2021

Parent/carer guide to remote learning – useful tips

Dear parent/carer

As a parent myself the thought of another lock down was not ideal, but I understood the need for it. I am writing to share with you some simple strategies that we have learnt from students and indeed you as parents so we can ease some of the challenges of home learning. The purpose of this newsletter is to help each other and understand that you are not alone. I certainly have used these tips, so I hope you find them useful!

Top five questions and answers

1. What is the structure of the school day?

We expect to return to face-face learning soon therefore it is essential to keep to a healthy school routine. Your child will be expected to start learning at 8.45am. They should follow their normal timetable, attending all scheduled lessons with a few exceptions. These are:

- Core PE is not currently an online live lesson, instead PE are offering physical education and wellbeing challenges that can take place at any suitable time.
- **It is essential that students take regular breaks. Break 1 (10.35 until 11.35) and break 2 (1.25-2.15pm)** is almost 2 hours when your child must get away from the screen and take a break, refresh, exercise, or if possible, talk to someone in their home.
- Tutors will contact home at least once a week and we will review attendance to lessons every day. Phone calls will be made if your child is not engaging with the remote learning put into place.
- You will be alerted via a Connect email/notification should your child miss any timetabled lessons.

2. What is the typical structure of an online lesson?

- Not all lessons will follow the same structure, most will involve some element of live teaching, others will involve individual study time.
- A register of attendance will be taken at the start of every live lesson.
- We have listened to student feedback, and as a result we are communicating to staff that a lesson should finish 5 minutes before the next one to ensure there is an opportunity for the students to transition to the next learning session.
- We are making sure that sufficient time is included in the lesson to complete the class work set.

3. Are you asking my child to do more work beyond the structured day?

- We will endeavour to set work that allows students to complete it mainly in lesson time. A reasonable level of extended/independent learning is still required for Years 10, 11 and Post 16 as we formulate evidence for final grades.

4. How will you work with me to help my child who needs additional support from adults at home to access remote education?

- We recognise that some students, for example some students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access remote education without support from adults at home. We acknowledge the difficulties this may place on families, and we will work with parents and carers to support those students. Please contact our SEND Co-ordinator, Mark Wilson (m.wilson@kscs.org.uk), with any specific queries.

5. Finally, common problems with on-line learning and how to solve them:

My child gets anxious about the presentation of their work

Reassure them their teachers are more interested in how well they are learning rather than the neatness of their work. Children will make more mistakes learning from home and it's ok to cross things out and change them. It doesn't really matter. They can also use Microsoft Teams to support handing in their work.

My child lacks the motivation to complete any school work at the moment

Focus on the tasks that they are more interested to complete. This will help keep things as calm and positive as possible, so important for you and your child. If other tasks cause conflict, leave them and try something different.

My child finds some of the work set by the school too challenging

Your child's class teacher will be very keen to hear this feedback. Keep in touch about what your child is doing well, and what they are struggling with. Stay as positive as possible.

My child finds it hard to focus for long periods of time

Our learning follows the school day. However, we appreciate sustaining focus on learning is hard, especially at this difficult time. Be kind to yourself and your child. If they're struggling, take a break and do something different. When things feel calmer, come back to the task if you can.

My child rushes all their work set and doesn't really do it properly!

Perhaps you could encourage your child to focus on one piece to share with a friend or relative at the end of the day. Photograph it and send it on. Getting lots of praise will help them see the benefit of extra effort. Your child's teacher will also support with this.