

Changes to some school practice following the impact of COVID restrictions

We have adapted some of our key approaches to Teaching & Learning in light of the COVID crisis.

Marking and feedback

We will be asking to students to complete fewer long assessments and tests that require teacher feedback and move towards shorter but more regular knowledge assessments and tests. This means that there will be fewer teacher comments on work but we can still gather information on how well students understand the work they are covering and build an accurate picture of student performance.

This shift means that there will be more digital based assessments and tests that students will complete on computers and tablets and fewer paper based tasks. Some lessons will still ask students to complete work on paper and this will be collected in following the COVID safety practices. This work will need to be held in storage for a period of time before the teacher can mark and so turnaround times for marking are likely to increase. It also means that students will be asked more often to hand work in digitally via the **Microsoft Teams** platforms that we use, or by other electronic methods such as email.

All students will receive training on the use of **Microsoft Teams** and there is more information about this software platform on the school website.

We feel that these changes allow us to keep safety as a priority as we continue to assess student's work and provide feedback to help them.

Home Learning

Whilst we are keeping to much of our Home Learning Policy (available on the school website) we are having to make some adaptations in the current climate.

The key principles of setting Home Learning tasks that are regular but take less time to complete and focus on reinforcing existing knowledge will continue. Most of this work will continue to be set digitally but it will move onto the Microsoft Teams platform rather than ClassCharts.

Students will continue to be rewarding for completing work to a high standard and negative points will be given for non-completion. It will, in the current COVID restriction environment, be more difficult for school to provide extra support for students not completing work. For example, we will not be able to run the after school homework clubs that we use to help students not completing work set.

Tutors and House Leaders will use ClassCharts to keep parents informed when students are not engaging with Home Learning Tasks and we will require parents to be more actively involved in such situations to ensure that the student does not fall behind in their learning. The school will not be sanctioning students who do not work at home, we will just keep parents informed if there are any issues.