

14th January 2021



Etone College
www.etonecollege.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing with a number of updates as detailed below.

Remote Education

Many thanks to those parents/carers who have taken the time to contact us to provide positive feedback about our remote education provision this week. We have been really pleased to receive your comments and all of your kind words have been shared with staff. I know that your support and thanks is very much appreciated by all involved.

Staff have worked incredibly hard this week to ensure provision is in place at short notice and will continue to do so to provide high quality remote education for all of our pupils. Our remote education guidance for parents and carers can be found on our school website. This is updated regularly to ensure that it meets all aspects of Government guidance: www.etonecollege.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Remote-Education-guidance-to-parents-DBo.pdf

Our remote education provision will be a live lesson for each subject in line with pupils' timetables with the exception of core PE lessons, some library reading lessons and Learning for Life lessons, where independent work will be set each week. At least half of the live lessons will include face to face explanation and then time may also be provided for independent tasks.

In the event of staff absence, your child will receive an email (school account) to let them know and work will be set for that lesson. If they are to join another lesson on TEAMS, this will be indicated to them. This provision is a blended approach of face to face delivery with some independent tasks that fully meets the time recommendations within the Government guidance.

As we are sure you will appreciate, this is a new way of working for all of us. It also depends on the smooth running of technology and internet access which cannot always be guaranteed. We thank you for your patience and support this week whilst we have started our remote education learning package. Rest assured that any concerns or issues are being addressed daily and we are doing our utmost to resolve these in a timely way. If you have any concerns or queries, do please let us know as we cannot resolve problems unless we are aware of them. You can contact us by phoning school (02476 757300) or sending an email to postbox@etonecollege.co.uk. This email address is monitored daily. **We would appreciate your direct contact with school rather than posting issues/concerns on social media platforms.**



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Pupils will receive invites for daily live lessons in TEAMS. They should regularly check their TEAMS calendar and school email account for invites. Please note, as detailed previously, there will not be live lessons for core PE, some library lessons or Learning for Life and work will be set instead. Pupils will receive an email if a member of staff is absent advising them of the work/arrangements for the lesson.

If pupils have trouble logging into TEAMS or experience any technical issues, please contact **ITsupport@etonecollege.co.uk** to log the issue. For subject specific issues, please contact the subject teacher.

Pupils have been made aware of expectations for live lessons and independent working. These are being shared again this week and we would ask for your support in ensuring that pupils meet these expectations at all times. Please may we remind you that any misuse of TEAMS or remote education will not be tolerated and dealt with swiftly.

The graphic features a blue background with a white Microsoft Teams logo on the left and the Etone College crest on the right. The title "Expectations on TEAMS" is centered in white. Below the title, a list of six expectations is provided in white text. To the right of the list are four small icons: a checkmark in a circle labeled "invite", a stack of books, a video call control bar with a red box around the mute button, and an icon of two people talking.

Expectations on TEAMS

- You must ensure that you check any resources/ invites before your lesson. Contact your subject teacher if there is a concern or you are unable to access the resources.
- Attend all TEAMS lessons on time for the length of your session.
- Ensure you have all equipment that your teacher requests you to provide.
- Keep your microphone muted unless your teacher gives you permission to unmute.
- Complete all work during your session along with homework and follow on tasks.
- Upload/ send any work requested by your teacher by the deadline given.
- Only use the chat function for answering or asking appropriate questions for the teacher. The chat facility must not be used to chat to other pupils.

You can also refer to our TEAMS help guide for guidance on how to access TEAMS lessons and activities: www.etonecollege.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/A-Guide-to-Teams.pdf

If materials are sent through for a lesson in advance, please can pupils check that they are able to open them and do so well in advance of the lesson. Sometimes, anti-virus software can block contents from being displayed. Please check the settings of your own anti-virus software to allow materials to be accessible.

Pupils should have information in their planners about on line learning platforms and their log in details. If they are unsure, they should contact the relevant staff teacher by email. Please be aware that staff are planning and delivering live lessons, providing feedback, supervising key worker and vulnerable pupils as well as their regular commitments so do appreciate that they may not respond immediately. We will endeavour to respond to all emails as soon as possible.

Please ensure that your child is regularly checking TEAMS and school emails and also have all the resources/equipment that they need for lessons ready in advance. This is very much a partnership between home and school as we continue to navigate these difficult times. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Pastoral/Form Time additional sessions

Your child will shortly receive a weekly TEAMS invite to a form time styled session with a nominated member of staff. This session is being put in place to serve as a regular point of contact with a key adult in school in addition to the taught curriculum. Pupils will be guided through our "Theme of the Week" programme and provided with key updates. It is also an opportunity for your child to raise any questions that they may have should they require additional support.

Year 11-13 mock exam feedback

We understand that pupils will be keen to know how they have performed in recent mock examinations that were paused due to school closure. At this present time, mock examinations are being thoroughly moderated. Unfortunately, not all subjects were able to complete their mock examinations prior to school closure so pupils may well have only sat some of the papers in the examinations series. (For example; Geography pupils sat Papers 1 and 2 but have not as yet sat Paper 3).

A progress update for those mock examinations completed will be issued shortly. Staff will follow this with more detailed feedback on question level analysis and common misconceptions to work with your child to maximise their potential.

Centre Assessed Grades – (CAG's)

We are not, as yet, sure of what will be required by Ofqual to award CAG's in the summer as nothing has been released at this point. It is vital, therefore, that all pupils continue to work hard and regard each piece of work as part of this ongoing assessment process. Failure to engage in work set could clearly have a detrimental effect on the final grade awarded. As soon as we have more information from Ofqual we will be in touch.

Key worker/vulnerable pupil places in school

In line with Government guidance, a reminder to all parents/carers that pupils should only be in school where absolutely necessary and there is no other option. Government guidance states that you should keep your child at home if you can.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Smith
Headteacher