

17th April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: New Term Update – 17th April 2020

We hope you have all been able to rest and spend quality time with your loved ones over the Easter break. We now look forward to the start of the summer term albeit this continues to be in the new landscape we have found ourselves in and one that we are likely to remain in for at least some weeks to come. Remote learning will begin again for students from 08.30am on Monday 20th April 2020.

Online Learning

As you will now be aware, the Government yesterday confirmed at least a further three-week extension to the current ‘lockdown’ restrictions and as such, we are anticipating that schools will continue to remain closed for an extended period of time.

We therefore appreciate that this term will continue to be very different and in some cases, very challenging for the WMG Academy community; however, we remain committed to ensuring our students get the best possible experience and we are actively investigating ways of making learning experiences more interactive as we move forward.

Initially, we set work for the two weeks of Academy closure leading up to the Easter break; however, we are now mindful that the extended period of national lockdown means that students will benefit from a more interactive experience. We are investigating ways to enhance our provision and allow students and their teachers to engage more readily, making use of the technology we have available to us. We feel this will be more beneficial to students, rather than always independently completing set tasks online.

We will be shifting our ways of working accordingly and will share this updated provision with you shortly. In the meantime, we would like to remind you of the best ways to access online learning from home, so please find some helpful tips, links and resources at the end of this letter.

Onsite Provision

As you will be aware, we made the decision to close the Academy entirely before the Easter break, including the provision for vulnerable students and the children of key workers as there was no uptake for this provision from parents. Government guidance remains the same in that children are safest working at home where possible but the academy remains fully committed to meeting any onsite provision requests by parents for vulnerable students and the children of key workers.

With this in mind, we are aware that situations at home may have changed since parents and carers made this original decision, and hence, if you did not initially put your child’s name forward for this provision and now need to take this up, please contact the Academy via email to solihull.info@wmgacademy.org.uk and we will endeavour to accommodate you. Further guidance from the government on key workers that could consider this provision can be found [here](#).

Online Safety

As students are now spending more time on computers and internet enabled devices to access online learning, we want to remind parents to be vigilant in ensuring their child is safe online. We would

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always advise that the internet be used in a communal area within the house so parents can monitor the online activity of their children. More advice and guidance about online safety can be found on the NSPCC website by clicking [here](#).

Ongoing Communication

Please be reminded that if you need to contact the Academy throughout this period of closure, we recommend doing so by email to solihull.info@wmgacademy.org.uk. Telephone messages will still be routinely monitored, however you will receive a response far sooner via email communications. Please remember that any parental communications are also available on our website by clicking [here](#).

In the meantime, we look forward to welcoming students back to their virtual learning from 08.30am on Monday morning and as always, appreciate your support in encouraging them to maintain routines of work and study.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K Tague
Executive Principal



Mr S Tait
Associate Principal

Reminder: Accessing Set Work Online

Learning from Home

Students will be set work for each subject on a regular basis via Google Classroom. Students should access this in exactly the same way that they do for homework. The work that has been set will direct students to a variety of tasks using on-line learning platforms such as Google Classroom, Seneca, Kahoot or MathsWatch.

Tasks set will be designed in a way that staff will still be able to monitor work and feedback to students via Google Classroom or Gmail. Feedback and dialogue between staff, students and parents is vital to ensure staff can monitor the workload, as well as physical and mental health of our students.

- **All Students**

- All students are able to login to their Google Drive, Gmail and Google Classroom from home by using the RM Unify login page. Visit www.rmunity.com and use the students' normal academy login details.
- By accessing their Google Drive, students will be able to continue with any coursework that is completed online e.g. Cambridge National Engineering coursework units.
- By accessing Google Classroom, students will be able to access any specific subject tasks that are set by the teacher.

- **Year 10 Students**

- **Year 10 English Literature** - Please refer to Google Classroom, revision workbooks and exam materials are available. English queries can be directed to Mrs Shaw, i.shaw@wmgacademy.org.uk.
- **Maths** - Past papers are available on the Mathematics Google Site. MathsWatch tasks will be set on a regular basis. Students have a personal login using the format below:
 - For Joe Bloggs In year 10:
Username: J.Bloggs19@wmgacademy
Password: ilikemaths123
- Maths queries can be directed to Mr Naeem, u.naeem@wmgacademy.org.uk.
- **Science** - Google classroom will be used to upload remaining lesson material and past papers. Students can access their digital textbook by logging into Kerboodle.
- Science queries can be directed to Miss Islam, a.islam@wmgacademy.org.uk.
- **Option Subjects** - Specific tasks will be added on to Google Classroom to support any missed content and exam preparation.

- **Year 12 Students**

- Sixth Form students are encouraged to make direct contact via email with their subject teachers. This will be the best way to access guidance and subject materials.
- Each student can still use Google Classroom to access relevant materials.
- Engineering students should continue to work on their assignments online, using the shared support materials.

- **Year 11 and 13 Students**

Before Easter, we circulated guidance from the Government and a letter from Ofqual, the regulatory body for qualifications in the UK. This letter is available [here](#).

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You will therefore be aware that qualifications for Year 11 and Year 13 will be awarded in August, following the submission of grades by teachers and subsequent standardisation. The grading announcement is clear that students do not need to do anything further on their GCSE, OCR National or A-Level studies to be awarded their grade.

The detail on awarding grades for BTEC has yet to be released. Therefore, we would continue to encourage students to work on their BTEC assignments in Y13 until this has been clarified. We expect this information in the coming days but are keen that students carry on with their studies in the meantime.

We would encourage all students to complete the learning in their courses as universities and apprenticeship providers will assume that you have studied all the content.

Other Online Resources

Additionally, there are a number of resources online that can stretch and challenge students. The websites below do not replace the resources shared by teaching staff but are designed to consolidate and enhance learning. More information about the WMG Academy curriculum can be found online by clicking [here](#).

University of Warwick Knowledge Centre

Available online by clicking [here](#), the Knowledge Centre is full of interesting articles, videos and podcasts on all sorts of topics. Why not check out the following articles?

- Engineering - [Scanning for the Truth](#)
- Maths - [Equations that Changed The World](#)
- Science - [What Would Happen if the Sun Exploded?](#)
- English – [How a French Ghost Story Influenced Dickens](#)

BBC GCSE Bitesize

Full of excellent revision notes, videos and games to help consolidate learning, BBC Bitesize is a great place to start revision of specific topic across nearly every subject. Available online by clicking [here](#).

TED-Ed

Available on YouTube by clicking [here](#), TED-Ed is a playlist of short videos perfect for all abilities on nearly every topic across the curriculum. Made by the experts behind TED Talks, you can be sure these videos will be engaging and informative.

RSC Learning Zone

The Royal Shakespeare Company's online Learning Zone is available [here](#). They have vast resources on Romeo and Juliet and other texts being studied for GCSE English. Arts lovers can also stream plays from the RSC online, with more information available [here](#). West End shows can also be streamed online by clicking [here](#).

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