

Plymstock School

A Student's Guide to Distance Learning

**The aim of this document is to help
support your learning at home.**

April 2020

Miss B Evans

Assistant Headteacher, Teaching and Learning

SUCCEEDING TOGETHER

Students, please find some updated information about how to guide your learning at home

- All of your homework tasks will be set on Show My Homework – your teacher will then direct you to another platform such as Google Classroom, Seneca, MyMaths etc if this is where you need to complete your work.
- All of the homework set by each teacher will have the same layout in the title which will begin with the subject and then week beginning information and then the lesson of that week if you have more than one e.g.
English, WK Beginning 13th April, Lesson 1
- All deadlines for the tasks set will be the Sunday of that week; this is to make it easier for you to organise your work on Show My Homework. It does not mean that the work should be completed by then; you should make sure it is completed by the first lesson of that subject in the *next* week
- Year 10 students there is a new program that some subjects will begin to use called GCSEPod – make sure you look out for the instructions from Mr Taylor about how this works

You are encouraged to keep in contact with your teachers but communication between you and your teachers should be using Show My Homework or the school email system only. Remember that any questions or feedback between you and your teachers should be in the exact same polite manner that would take place in a normal face to face lesson. Please do not expect your teacher to email you back immediately, they are also working in much different environments and it may take them a little while to get back to you. If your teacher doesn't respond then please email the head of department or your head of year. Email addresses can be found on the website and attached to the back of this document. Plymstock School will not tolerate any rudeness towards staff through email or Show My Homework; if this does happen then you will be sanctioned when we return to school.

Guides have been placed on the website to help you access the platforms that will be used for distance learning. You have also been told how to access these in class.

On the distance learning page on the school website you will also find a link that will take you to some websites that will give you some different activities to complete so that you are keeping busy and not just completing school work all the time.

If you have any worries about being safe at home then you should email Mrs Walton at the following email address: lwalton@plymstockschool.org.uk.

I hope that the points below help you with your distance learning.

1. How can we keep as 'normal' a routine as possible?

As far as possible, teachers/curriculum leaders will set work as follows:

Years 10 & 12: teachers will set work that will continue your learning along with consolidation tasks of prior learning.

Years 7 to 9: tasks will be set by your teachers which will enable you to progress in your learning.

I know that working at home can be overwhelming and difficult but it is important that you try and complete as much of the work as you are able to so that you do not fall too far behind your classmates when we return to school. Don't forget if you are feeling overwhelmed or anxious about the work or you need some help then email or message us.

2. Planning Learning

We recommend that you plan what you are doing each day, this could include the time that would normally be spent walking or travelling to and from school; you can plan what you will cover over the course of the day and then take time to record and review what they covered at the end of the school day. The plan can be a mix between specific activities that have been set, use of Knowledge Organisers to review what has been learnt so far this academic year and what is being learnt in the current term. Links to online resources will be provided to you via Show My Homework

A really easy idea is to stick to your timetabled lessons for that day.

It is also important that you timetable some breaks into your day – you need to eat and drink and have some down time just like you do at break and lunch when we are at school.

Here are two examples of how a day studying from home might look:

Day A

| Tutor / Travel Time | | At the start of the day, check on Show My Homework for any assigned work and plan the schedule for the day, checking the timetable. |
|------------------------|---------|--|
| Lesson 1 – 9:00-10:00 | English | Complete any tasks assigned in Show My Homework during the time the normal lesson would take place. All of the above can be supplemented by reading for at least half an hour. |
| Lesson 2 – 10:00-11:00 | Science | |
| Lesson 3 – 11:20-12:20 | Maths | |
| Lesson 4 – 12:20-13:20 | Art | |
| Lesson 5 – 2:00-3:00 | French | |

Day B

| Tutor / Travel Time | | At the start of the day, check on Show My Homework for any assigned work and plan the schedule for the day, checking the timetable. |
|------------------------|-----------|--|
| Lesson 1 – 9:00-10:00 | Science | Complete any tasks assigned in Show My Homework during the time the normal lesson would take place. All of the above can be supplemented by reading for at least half an hour. |
| Lesson 2 – 10:00-11:00 | Geography | |
| Lesson 3 – 11:20-12:20 | Maths | |
| Lesson 4 – 12:20-13:20 | PE | |
| Lesson 5 – 2:00-3:00 | Music | |

If a student has PE or Life Education on any given day, this time can be used for physical activity conducted within the advice of the Government/NHS and/or Public Health England or just reading up on the news.

3. This 'break' also provides an opportunity to review learning so far this year and in past years!

If you have completed all the tasks that your teachers have set you then you could use this time to go back over the work that you learnt since September. When you are revising you must do it in short chunks of time concentrating on the parts that you find hard – it is really easy to revise the parts you know! Remember the golden rule of memory – if it isn't hard then it isn't working.

4. How can the people at home help you?

Talk through your plans for the day and ask them to run through a checklist with you to make sure you have everything you need including food and drink. Maybe it would be best if they took your mobile phone from you whilst you worked to avoid distractions or removed your access to the x-box or Netflix. Get them to ask you questions about what you have learnt or ask them to look at the work you have completed – involve people at home in your learning just as you would do at school.

5. What should I do with the work I complete?

Any work that you complete should be kept safe so that you can bring it into school when we go back. Some teachers may ask you to mark work and send them your mark on Show My Homework – look out for these instructions. Teachers may also set you some assessments on online platforms such as Doodle or MyMaths and it is really important that you try your best to complete these as best you can.

6. Reading

Reading a book or a magazine or information about a topic of interest online is also a good use of time as this will help develop vocabulary, imagination and (in the case of non-fiction texts) understanding of the wider world. We recommend at least 30 minutes per day.

Top tips for creating a productive learning environment in the home

Just because you aren't at school doesn't mean that you are not going to be doing any work. You must make sure that you are completing the work teachers have set you or you may find yourself behind your classmates when you return. Of course, you can reward yourself with a game of Fortnite or updating social media but this must be done when you have completed your work; your day must have some structure like it would if you were at school.

1. Ensure all distractions are switched off or well out of reach – mobile phones should be switched off / be on silent or placed in another room – the TV also shouldn't be on. Quiet, calm music in the background might provide a suitable backdrop to work being completed.
2. Make sure that you have somewhere suitable to work – at your desk or maybe at the kitchen table.
3. Make sure that you have everything you need before you start so that you are not distracted by finding your pen or going to get a drink.
4. Learning can be hard when you're not in school but don't forget that you have the internet at your fingertips, plus your exercise books and resources on the teaching and learning area. Don't give up – talk it through with whoever is at home or message your teacher on Show My Homework if you are really struggling. Remember, the harder you have to think, the better your learning will be.
5. Keep in contact! Talk through what you have been doing with people at home or message your classmates to see how they are getting on with the work. Support each other.

Department Staff Contact List

| Subject | Staff | Email |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Art | Mr Hurd-Thomas | ohurd-thomas@plymstockschool.org.uk |
| Business Studies | Mr Hughes | ghughes@plymstockschool.org.uk |
| Dance | Mr Wookey | swookey@plymstockschool.org.uk |
| Drama | Mr Bellamy | nbellamy@plymstockschool.org.uk |
| English | Ms Burgess | dburgess@plymstockschool.org.uk |
| Geography | Miss Bartlett | abartlett@plymstockschool.org.uk |
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| Mathematics | Ms Marshall | kmarshall@plymstockschool.org.uk |
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Hub Team Contact List

| Year Group | Staff | Email |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 7 Head of Year | Mrs Kirk | mkirk@plymstockschool.org.uk |
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| 11 Head of Year | Mrs Robb | crobb@plymstockschool.org.uk |
| 11 Assistant Head of Year | Mrs Smith | ssmith@plymstockschool.org.uk |