



The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

8 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

First of all, apologies for the large number of letters you will be receiving at the minute. As you can imagine, over the next couple of weeks we will be sharing lots of new information.

Having spoken to a small number of parents, I thought it would be wise to clarify some aspects of our online learning programme for students, the rationale behind it and also give further details of what we are providing.

We will not be offering five live lessons a day at the academy. We have done a significant amount of research on the best home learning strategy that will ensure students succeed across the period of lockdown. We are aware that some schools may move to five live lessons a day but we have concerns around this. This method can disadvantage those families where there is limited access to online devices. For example, some of our families may have one laptop between three siblings and a parent trying to work from home.

There is also concerns that five live lessons a day can have initial impact but then students start to become disengaged with this process quite quickly. A member of our staff has conducted a national research project into online learning and has been asked to present his findings to International Universities.

We have found the preferred research approach is a hybrid of live lessons and pre-recorded lessons. From Wednesday 13 January, students will have one live lesson a day with all 5 lessons being provided as a pre recording. This will then increase to two live lessons a day.

A reminder, the pre-recorded lessons also have live teacher input. The student's teacher is available on Zoom at the time of the lesson to teach the student or give support if they need it throughout that lesson. At the minute, there has been limited uptake of this support so we assume students are understanding their learning from the pre-recorded materials. If your child does not understand the work, please encourage them to access the Zoom support. If students are struggling for devices they can access Zoom via Xbox and phones. We are putting together a guide to share with parents and this will be sent out shortly.

The timetable for one live lesson a day will start on Wednesday 13 January. **Your child's live lesson will be at the times below and will be the subject they would normally have at that time during that week.** Attendance to these lessons is compulsory and please contact us if there are genuine reasons your child cannot attend it. All five lessons, including the live lesson, will still be available on Satchel One as a pre-recorded lesson. The teachers for each lesson will be available on Zoom all day.

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Teachers are working incredibly hard to make sure that education continues to be meaningful for the students.

	Wednesday 13 th January	Thursday 14 th January	Friday 15 th January
Time	13:40 – 14:40	10:10 – 11:10	13:40-14:40

	Monday 18 th January	Tuesday 19 th January	Wednesday 20 th January	Thursday 21 st January	Friday 22 nd January
Time	11:10 – 12:10	8:55 - 9:55	13:40 – 14:40	10:10 – 11:10	13:40-14:40

We will then add the second lesson in the week commencing 25 January. Details to follow.

Each day, we will also be providing the Ready to Learn activities that they would be covering in form time. Please see below a breakdown of the topics. They will be delivered through pre-recorded materials as staff will be using that time to make individual contact with all families to make sure they have everything they need.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Literacy	Reading	Cultural Capital	Mental wellbeing	Assembly

For this to work, it is ideal if the students follow the normal academic day. This means getting up and being ready to learn at 8:30. In my previous letter, I gave details of the times that teachers will be on Zoom each lesson and students need to stick to this. As I have previously mentioned, I know that this won't work for all and so the pre-recorded materials will ensure that what we have provided is fully inclusive.

I understand there is a lot of information for parents to take in. The following [LINK](#) takes you to a video on our website by our Vice Principal which talks you through step by step what to expect and how to access it. As the provision grows, we will add to this and keep you informed. We will also be uploading this to our Social Media platforms.

As always, if there are any queries then please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton
Principal

