



The Sutton Academy  
Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

8 January 2020

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 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 and colleges are moving to a full timetable of live lessons 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 are also concerns that a full timetable of live lessons 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. Teachers will communicate directly with students via Satchel One to let them know which lessons will be ran live via Zoom and which lessons will be pre-recorded. You can also find this out by accessing the Satchel One app as a parent. If you need you log in details please do not hesitate to contact school. Attendance to these live lessons is compulsory but please contact us if there are genuine reasons your child cannot attend it.

**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.

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.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton  
Principal

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