

FAQ's - Children's home-learning during school closure



How can I contact the academy, if necessary?

Updated information can be found on the Academy's website. Parents/Carers also receive all updated information in our weekly Covid-19 Newsletter. In case you need to contact the Academy or any member of staff, please send an email to office@dittonparkacademy.co.uk

Alternatively, you may wish to contact your son / daughter's House Leader to discuss pastoral or academic concerns.

Mr Johnston, Magna House Leader, s.johnston@dittonparkacademy.co.uk

Mr Cividino, Cliveden House Leader, b.cividino@dittonparkacademy.co.uk

Miss Fenner, Eton House Leader, a.fenner@dittonparkacademy.co.uk

Miss Daly, Windsor House Leader, d.daly@dittonparkacademy.co.uk

Mrs R.Nagra, Head of Year 11, 12 and 13, r.nagra@dittonparkacademy.co.uk

Example of email address initial.surname@dittonparkacademy.co.uk (names of teachers can be found on our website)

How much work should be set for my child per week?

Frequency:

In general, teachers are setting work ideally once per week, as we hope this will lessen the feeling of being 'overwhelmed' by receiving lots of posts in Teams. However, where for example, classes or teachers feel it is better for their group(s) to continue to follow the school timetable, they may instead be setting work lesson by lesson. This should be in rare instances though.

Type of work set:

For KS3 classes, teachers are setting predominately project-based work, usually themed; e.g. Pioneers in... MfL / English / Food etc. or Legacy in...PE / Geography etc. The projects are designed to last a period of time, such as two-weeks or a half-term, enabling students to work on them in short, frequent bouts, which again we hope will enable flexibility given everyone's unique home circumstances at the moment.

For KS4 classes, teachers are in general setting work that is retrieval, revision and consolidation based, to enable students to feel really confident with all their prior learning and to help transfer this learning to their long-term memory. As home-learning cannot perfectly emulate the 'real' school experience, with the teacher in the room supporting students with misunderstandings and questions, we are trying to avoid setting new curriculum content as we are conscious that students will not have the benefit of that one-to-one teacher support. Lead Teachers are currently looking at their curriculum maps to ensure any content not currently covered can be addressed once schools reopen.

For KS5 classes, teachers and students are collaborating to agree how best to set work as these groups are more skilled with independent learning.

How much time my child should spend completing schoolwork per day OR per week OR per subject?

As acknowledged, home-learning is not a direct simulation of the experience of students when in the Academy, and as such, we are not expecting students to be sitting at a desk from 8.30am until 3.30 or 4.30pm every day. A degree of flexibility with how days are structured is only to be expected, although we do suggest trying to follow a daily / weekly routine.

However, where possible we would recommend that students spend approximately the same amount of time working on their subjects as they would if they were following their normal school timetable. So, if a student has two hours a week timetabled lessons for one particular subject, they should try their best to spend the same amount of time at home working on their Teams assignments for that subject (although it might not necessarily be in two one-hour blocks). In addition, as per the usual expectations for homework, they should spend the same amount of time completing work in addition to their lesson allocation hours. So, if a student has two hours of timetabled lessons and 30 minutes per week of homework for a given subject, this is what they should be aiming to do also whilst schools are closed: two hours and 30 mins.

Where can I get more support for my child to engage them with learning resources?

Although teachers set work for your child for each subject area they study at the Academy, there are various other online platforms which parents/carers can use to guide their children to further engage with their studies. For example:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

www.khanacademy.org

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

What can I do to support my child with his/her learning at home?

How children respond to remote home-learning will vary, with some spending too much time and others spending too little time. It is vital that their time is used effectively to minimise the attainment gap that may develop in the absence of teaching and learning in school. Below are some of the tips for parents/carers to support their children's learning at home:

1. Clear study space – If you have a desk at home ensure to de-clutter so there is ample space for books, computer/laptop and any other study materials. Remove anything else

that is not needed to avoid distraction. In case siblings needs to use the same space, each one can keep their study materials in their own 'school' box and take turns in using the learning space/area.

- 2. Decide a study time and communicate to all family members – It is important that other members of the family are aware of the time slots when children study. This will ensure quite study time. Try to follow an established daily and weekly routine.*
- 3. Tune out distractions – If it is difficult to create a quiet study space in your home, encourage your child(ren) to use calming instrumental music (preferably with headphones). Experiment with different genres to see what works.*
- 4. Help your child(ren) set realistic goals – Help your child(ren) set realistic goals that can actually be achieved. For example, if your child decides to complete all or most work set in a single sitting of over a few hours without a break it may overwhelm them or lower the quality of work produced. Encourage and aid them to set small daily goals.*
- 5. Celebrating and rewarding – Celebrate the successes no matter how small to encourage their self-belief. When they complete the work set in the duration of the time decided, reward them. This will reinforce good habits.*

I do not have a suitable space at home for my child to study.

If you don't have a desk in your room (maybe you're sharing counter or table space with others in your home), help/guide your child to choose a dedicated area where he/she can study. This may be in a sitting room or in a bedroom. Make sure it's clean, clutter-free and generally quiet during study time. Help ensure your child removes their study materials once finished, so that the space may go back to its original purpose. Using a portable container—like a crate, backpack or small box—that you can dedicate to housing their study materials is helpful; they can keep everything together and move between spaces easily when necessary. If siblings are sharing same area, they can take turns in using this created study space.

What support is available for my SEN/GTC child from the academy?

- Assigned LSAs for students with EHCP for regular check -ins. This week, this will be extended to all our SEN students.
- SEN groups available on Teams to support our SEN students. Please encourage your child to ask questions. Our team is always available to support your child's learning.
- Packs of printed differentiated resources can be sent home if your son/daughter struggles with the work set on Teams. Please contact a.gales@dittonparkacademy.co.uk
- Differentiated resources sent home to parents via email when requested
- Differentiated resources for English, Maths, Science and Geography posted in our groups on Teams
- Access to Lexia accounts for students with dyslexia and reading difficulties

- Online sessions for English, Maths and Science for low ability students to start next week. The times and the days of these lessons will be sent to parents this week.
- Support from the Educational Psychologist to support parents and students
- Please email the SENCo at a.gales@dittonparkacademy.co.uk if you have any concern or need any support from the SEN/GTC team