

12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

**Re: Blending Learning – Years 7-11**

Following on from Mr Sullivan’s letter detailing the plans for our ongoing remote provision, I would like to offer you some further detail into our ‘Blended Learning approach’ and what your child should expect over the coming weeks.

‘Blended Learning’ is an approach that uses traditional teacher instruction and explanation whilst providing students more control over time, place and pace of their learning. The principles behind our Blended approach to learning are:

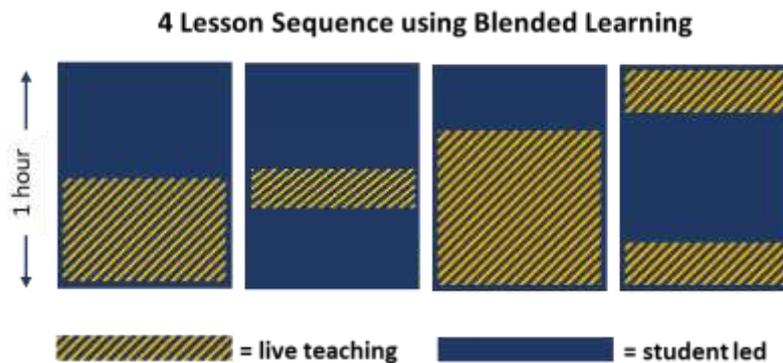
- Quality teaching and learning
- Peer interaction and collaboration
- Student independence & enhanced metacognition
- Workload & well-being

We have chosen to begin every lesson using Microsoft Teams to provide the structure, motivation and sense of community for all students throughout the day. Each lesson will be registered and teachers will then introduce, explain, review or reflect from a prior lesson before setting the lesson activities. These activities may be completed live during the lesson or instead, set to complete ‘offline’ and then later submitted on Firefly. Some lessons may begin with the teacher instruction, with students then being asked to complete activities ‘offline’, then students return for the final 10 minutes of the lesson for live feedback and review.

Striking the balance between making good progress, handling student workload and avoiding digital fatigue is difficult for any student to achieve. We do not wish for students to work beyond their allocated lesson time of roughly five hours per day and therefore should not extend themselves or be concerned about working beyond this amount of time. Assessed homework will continue to be set in line with school policy which can be viewed of Firefly [here](#). We are confident that this model will support all our students in achieving a healthy balance.

An example of Blended Learning across a sequence of lessons is shown on the following page, with no lesson delivering more than 45 minutes of live teacher input.

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### Firefly and the setting of lessons

- All lessons will be set by teachers to appear on Firefly the morning of the school day. Students will be able to identify their lesson for that day through using the filter, a video of how to do this can be viewed on Firefly [here](#).
- The large majority of lessons will begin at their normal time, which can be viewed in the Firefly planner. Should a teacher plan on starting the lesson at a slightly later time, this will be evident through the lesson title.
- If a teacher is absent, cover work will be set through Firefly.
- Students may find relevant resources included within the lesson task.
- If any follow up work is set from the lesson, this will be added to the existing Firefly task, with the submission date adjusted for submission.

Finally, I would like to commend all of our students who have made an incredibly positive start to term through attendance to MS Teams live lessons and submission of work on Firefly. A reminder that tomorrow (Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January), **all lessons** will begin live on MS Teams for **all year groups**.

Yours faithfully

Mr S El Sayed  
**Deputy Head Teacher**