

Monday 20th April 2020

Re: Remote Provision update, Trinity Term

Dear Parents,

We are grateful to everyone who took the time to complete the on-line questionnaire on the first week of our remote learning provision. Your feedback was extremely helpful, and it was very encouraging to read that the vast majority of you are finding the remote learning resources accessible and effective.

Over the Easter break we have been working hard to develop further how we deliver our lessons remotely over the forthcoming weeks, and have made changes to improve our provision in line with the comments made:

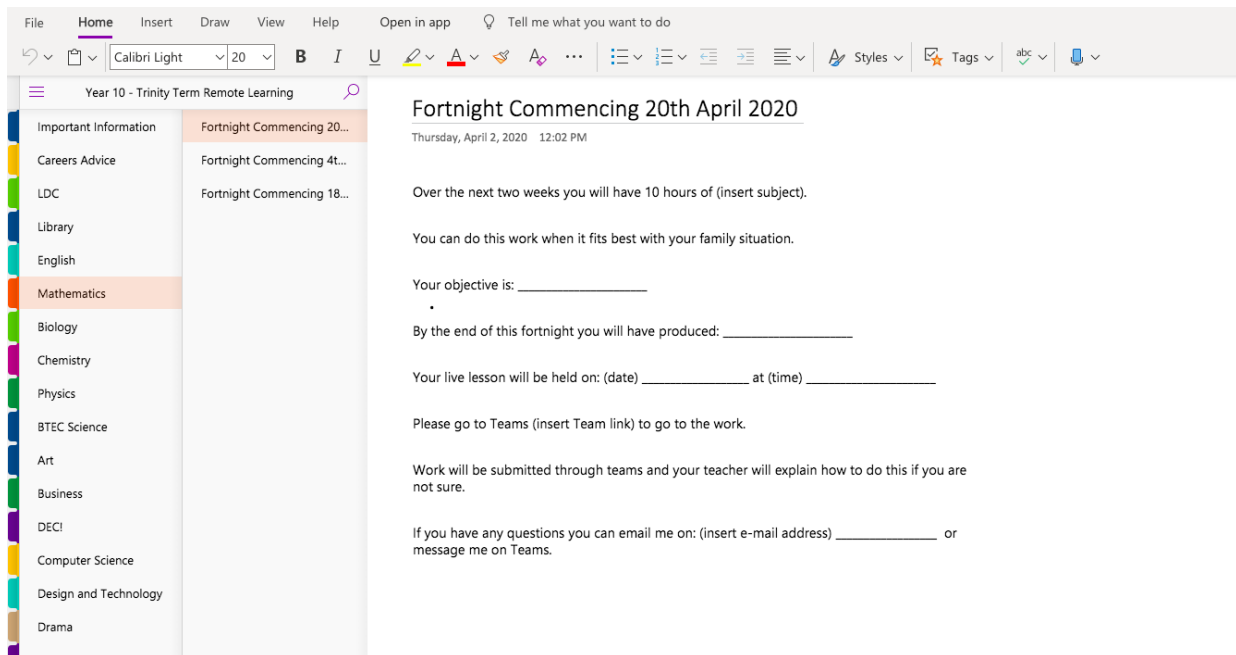
Parents have asked why we are using Microsoft OneNote:

The OneNote is essentially the 'home/work diary'. It is a way of providing both parents and pupils with an overview of the individual subject objectives and outcomes on a daily / weekly / fortnightly basis.

We will therefore continue with the OneNote to provide an overview to parents and pupils and have set up new OneNotes for the Trinity term. The links to these OneNotes can be found at the bottom of this letter and are also published on the website under Contingency Planning.

Some parents found that there were inconsistencies in the OneNote entries which made it difficult to find / understand the work set:

To improve how information is conveyed, both to pupils and parents, we have created a standard approach to recording individual lessons on the OneNotes:



Parents have found it difficult to cope with the different methods teachers were using to set work and receive submissions:

Parents also found that when teachers were using Microsoft Teams it was much easier for their son to access the work set and also submit it, removing the need to email individual teachers. Therefore, from the start of the Trinity term, teachers will be running their lessons through Microsoft Teams. This is a huge learning curve for many of us and therefore we have put together both a pdf guide and a video for parents and pupils on using MS Teams. The link to this guide can be accessed through the OneNote under 'Important Information'.

Please bear with us, we anticipate it will take a few days for us all to get properly into the swing of things.

Where pupils have experienced live lessons, they found them to be extremely beneficial:

By using Microsoft Teams, teachers are able to deliver lessons to their pupils and our aim is for pupils to receive regular contact with their teachers through weekly scheduled live lessons. The timing of live lessons will be published in advance on the OneNote so parents and pupils can forward-plan. We encourage attendance in these lessons but recognise that it might not always be possible. If your son is unable to attend a live lesson please ask him to let his teacher know.

Parents have explained to us that some pupils like to have a structure and others want to work at their own pace:

Recognising the many challenges our pupils and parents face, we are taking a flexible approach to the daily structure of lessons. Many pupils will find it difficult to work from home and therefore we are aiming to offer a variety of lessons to support different needs. Pupils from Year Eleven and below will be set an hour each of English and Mathematics every day. From Year Nine and below, non-core subjects will be set as a project so that pupils can decide how long they want to spend on

which non-core subject each day. Science will continue to be set where timetabled. This will be clearly indicated on the OneNote.

Many of our pupils are needing much support at home:

By introducing the live lessons pupils will have more regular contact with their teachers. Microsoft Teams provides a 'chat' function which allows boys to contact their teachers directly if they have any questions, without the need to email. They will also be able to share ideas with their classmates, thereby improving the social interaction they so obviously miss. This may also help with motivation, with which some pupils are also struggling.

Most parents hadn't been able to access the extra-curricular resources such as Social and Emotional Learning targets, Physical Education and the Library:

It is impossible to replicate exactly the 'More House experience' at home but we are very keen that all the boys have access to things other than the purely academic lessons. The P.E. department will provide half an hour every day on Physical Education for all year groups which will include aspects of healthy eating, and other relevant curriculum content. Also, to encourage more participation we will be running various initiatives and competitions through our Social Media channels, and shared on the OneNote.

Parents have indicated that their son responds well to the feedback given and would like greater interaction with teachers:

By using Microsoft Teams for all lessons feedback is quick and easy to give.

Parents have said that their son responds well to the pastoral support and would like this to be more consistent:

Heads of Year and individual tutors will be using Microsoft Teams to stay in regular contact with their tutees.

Will teachers still be setting homework?

No, whilst we are operating remotely there will be no homework set as such. However, for Year Ten and above, teachers will be setting plenty of independent work within the structure of each lesson to check understanding, particularly for BTEC subjects.

Parents have asked if it is possible to deliver individual therapies remotely:

The Learning Development Centre therapist and tutors are working hard to set up individual lessons for each discipline through Microsoft Teams. Weekly live lessons, with clear objectives will be delivered in small groups. For example, there will be progressive lessons on handwriting, working on

developing underlying skills, and direct Speech and Language Therapy will be delivered. Timings of live lessons will be published in advance, on the OneNote.

I hope that you have found this information useful. Obviously, these are uncharted waters and we are all finding our feet, so we do anticipate it will take a few days for us all to settle into this new routine. Therefore, the first Flexi-Friday will be a support day where tutors will be available to check that pupils have the access they need and answer any questions they might have. The staff training and preparation days, on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st April, are devoted to preparing for this enhanced approach to remote academic, extra-curricular, therapeutic and pastoral provision.

We have provided an overview to the Remote Delivery for each year group in individual OneNotes under 'Important Information' for quick reference (use the link below according to your son's year group, or find the link using the Contingency Planning tab from the school website). By following the link to your son's year-group remote learning page, you can access an extremely easy-to-follow video showing you how your son should log into Microsoft Teams.

Further to that, I would be grateful if you would remind your son that he needs to wear appropriate clothing suitable for an online classroom environment when accessing any live lesson content – this certainly does not need to be school uniform, but it should not be pyjamas, and his torso should always be covered.

Please note that the start of term, on Wednesday 22nd April, is a timetable Week B.

Yours sincerely,

Penni Kerr
Deputy Head (Curriculum)

Links to the One Notes

 [Year 7 - Trinity Term Remote Learning](#)

 [Year 8 - Trinity Term Remote Learning](#)

 [Year 9 - Trinity Term Remote Learning](#)

 [Year 10 - Trinity Term Remote Learning](#)

 [Year 11 - Trinity Term Remote Learning](#)

 [Year 12 - Trinity Term Remote Learning](#)

 [Year 13 - Trinity Term Remote Learning](#)