



School Response to comments raised following Blended Learning - September 2020

Thank you to the parents of the students in years 8 and 9 that responded to the blended learning questionnaire following the recent period of home learning that was required. This document is intended as a summary of the frequently raised questions/points raised. Many thanks for taking the time to respond to the survey. Your comments will continue to help us refine our practice in this area.

Why couldn't all the lessons for year 8 have been 'live'?	<p>Year 8 were the only year group that were isolating meaning that years 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 were in lessons and therefore in classrooms. With the bubble system in operation every classroom space is being used across the school. The school has invested in more webcams and speakers and the classrooms that would have been used by year 8 were able to be used for 'live' filming during the period. However, with the rest of the school on site there are simply not enough locations for 6 lessons every period to cover each year 8 teaching group to be 'live' all the time.</p> <p>Pre-recorded lessons are also used as method of differentiation – they can be paused and watched over again if instructions need to be repeated/examples checked again.</p>
Why were no year 9 lessons pre-recorded or live?	<p>With only a small number of year 9 students isolating it was not possible for the teacher to deliver to the class and then upload/record a recorded lesson. This is in a similar way to a student being absent due to illness or a sporting fixture – resources are provided that were covered but they could not be covered in the same way.</p>
It would have been good to have spoken to the tutor or Head of year when isolating.	<p>Mrs Wells, the year 8 tutor team and other pastoral staff had made calls to homes during the week. We can only apologise if your call was not made.</p> <p>Given the situation we would urge parents to ensure their contact details (including phone numbers) are accurate on our system for future reference.</p> <p>Again, as there were only a handful of year 9s who were isolating it was more difficult for the tutors to have the opportunity to make these calls, as the rest of the tutor group was present.</p> <p>Parents and students can always ask for contact to be made, wither through Show My Homework, or via email and we will get back to you. We make it a priority to get back to you as soon as we can.</p>
My son/daughter finds schoolwork challenging when in school – the tasks were too difficult for them	<p>This is a really important point and one that as a staff we will be working on.</p> <p>As was mentioned by a number of parents on the survey remote learning cannot replace the interaction or support that is in the classroom.</p> <p>I hope parents will notice an improvement in this area as/when blended learning is required again.</p>
My child got confused in how to access the work and use Teams.	<p>All tutor groups should have had the method of accessing materials explained to them in a tutor time session on Teams.</p> <p>Guides to Teams will also be available as and when any remote learning needs to be set in future as a reference point.</p>

<p>The double lesson meant there was a huge amount to cover and it caused real stress.</p>	<p>The speed with which students complete work when at home and in class is different, as is the amount different children can complete.</p> <p>We would urge that a timer is set so that the hour period is the amount of time spent on any tasks set and when the hour session, or two hour session if it is a double is up, students should stop working on that subject.</p>
<p>I was upset my son also had to have time away from his friends.</p>	<p>Advice from Public Health England states that those in a contact group/bubble need to isolate for a period to minimise spread of any infection and to cover the possible incubation period.</p> <p>The school encouraged the students to follow this guidance for the safety of all.</p>
<p>Why can't you use Zoom so that all students can be seen and heard?</p>	<p>In line with our safeguarding policy, Zoom is not an application that the school is using for blended learning.</p>
<p>It would be good to have all tasks set within a clear timeframe so the day can be planned.</p>	<p>For future reference, all tasks for that day will be set by 8:30am on that morning, following the timetable of that week.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to follow the timings of the timetable of the school day so that they can have a clear structure.</p>
<p>It was difficult to get a response from a teacher straight away.</p>	<p>As mentioned with other year groups being taught in school other lessons were continuing.</p> <p>A number of staff offered to be at the end of an email during the allocated lesson time and this is a suggestion that we are sharing with the wider staff body.</p>
<p>My daughter was given a 'submitted late' mark when the computer is shared at home which demoralised her.</p>	<p>This is a valid point and we can only apologise for this situation.</p> <p>Please remember that Show My Homework always enables students to add a comment that their teacher will see and/or teachers can be contacted directly by email if there are some specific circumstances that we need to be aware of.</p>
<p>There was a real inconsistency in the amount of work set for students in year 9.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>As mentioned this was a trickier issue given that it was only 26 students from the year that were isolating. However, this does not excuse the inconsistent experience for these students during this period.</p> <p>We have now introduced a clear process whereby the Curriculum Leader monitors when and what is set for all students so that this can become more consistent.</p>
<p>My son found looking at a screen for a long time difficult. Could you include more practical tasks?</p>	<p>An understandable point.</p> <p>Staff were trying to replicate the experience that would have been in school as closely as possible, following the content that would have been covered.</p> <p>Practical learning suggestions, however, have been passed on to the teaching staff so that activities planned could be more varied.</p>

