

# Wolstanton High School

*Empowering Learners for Life*

**Headteacher: Mr M R Boughey** (NPQH, MA, PGCE, BSc)

Wolstanton High School, Milehouse Lane, Wolstanton,  
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1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear parents/carers

One of my first tasks since joining the school formally last week was to review the expectations that have been put on students and parents in terms of learning from home. As a parent myself, I am acutely aware of the enormous difficulties and strains that are on us, as we attempt to ensure our children are doing their work alongside working fulltime or being at home and trying to support our children with their learning. I completely understand that the pressures of our current situation are a real struggle at times.

Up until this point the school has been setting work that is in line with your child's 'normal' timetable. This has meant that potentially 5 amounts of work has been received along with emails, calls and checks etc from the dedicated staff. In the short term this was absolutely the correct thing to do. But I am not sure that anyone would have anticipated the length of school closure and, indeed, as I write, I do not know when we are likely to start considering re-opening.

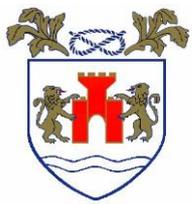
As such, I write to you to inform you of a change to how we will support the education of your children at home. Whilst further detail follows in this letter, in summary we will issue 2 'sessions' of work a day, rather than 5 'lessons'. The amount of learning will not reduce. This change will enable you and the students to focus on a manageable amount of work that can be done flexibly throughout the day. This avoids the need to be rigid with your 5 lesson days and the communication, support and assessment will be much more efficient and not so overwhelming.

The detail:

You will start to see the changes over the next week, but from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May we will no longer be setting work in line with the 'normal' school timetable. In order to make home learning more sustainable and manageable throughout the summer term for students, parents and teachers, work will be set in line with the timetable below. Please note that in Year 11, students will be encouraged to complete work for their core and option subjects to keep them in the right frame of mind for learning as they make their journey to college, sixth form or apprenticeships in the near future. The rationale behind the new timetable is as follows:

- A set timetable will hopefully support both students and parents with a routine. It also gives staff the opportunity to respond and give feedback on the work they have received;
- Optional extra work will be provided for each subject but students are not expected to submit this work, it is there simply to provide wider learning opportunities;
- Opportunity for students to pursue their own interests during each day to support their wellbeing during these difficult times;
- PE will be encouraged each day through the use of Jo Wicks online sessions and through practical activities set by the PE department  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1>





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## Timetable by year group

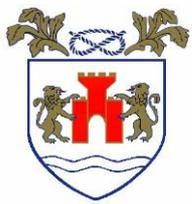
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Year 7</b>	Maths History	Science Geography	English Technology	Music Art Computing	RE French
<b>Year 8</b>	RE French	Music Art Computing	Maths History	Science Geography	English Technology
<b>Year 9</b>	Art Music Computing	English Technology	Science Geography	RE French	Maths History
<b>Year 10</b>	Maths Science	English RE	Science Option Line A	Maths Option Line B	English Option Line C
<b>Year 11 preparing for their transition to college</b>	English RE	Maths Science	English Option Line C	Maths Option Line A	Science Option line B

N.B: Students in Year 10 and 11, can use Insight to find out if they are in option line A, B or C e.g. The timetable will say Geography 10C

## Year 10 and 11 option line subjects

	A	B	C
<b>Year 10</b>	Extra English, Food, French, Geography, History, I-Media, Music, Photography, Technology and Triple Science	Art, Business Studies, Computing, Construction, French, Geography, History, I-Media, Photography and Technology	Art, Business Studies, Construction, Food, Geography, History, I-Media, Music, PE and Photography
<b>Year 11</b>	Business Studies, Construction, French, Food, Geography, History, I-Media, Music, and PE	Art, Business Studies, Computing, Construction, French, Geography, History, I-Media and Photography	Business Studies, Food, French, Geography, History, PE, Photography, Technology and Triple Science





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If students are struggling to access the online resources then please make us aware by contacting the class teacher in the first instance or IT Support ( [itsupport@wolstanton.shaw-education.org.uk](mailto:itsupport@wolstanton.shaw-education.org.uk) ) to see if we can resolve the issue. If it cannot be resolved, we are more than happy to deliver a paper-based copy of the work.

We recognise as a school that this is a very difficult time for all and we do not expect you to become the teacher. Encouraging your child to stick to a routine of completing their work will help then once we return to school.

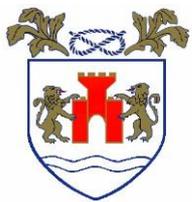
In addition to the changes in home learning, I have also reviewed the process in which we conduct vital safe and well checks. I do not apologise for the school's efforts to check if our students are safe and well. We hope you have valued the safe and well calls that form tutors have been making each week and thank you for your responses. Encouraged and reassured by the 100% response rate, these checks will now be made every other week. If you have more than one child in school from your household then the form tutor of the eldest child will be in touch and liaise with colleagues in school to let them know all is well. It is also worth noting that many families will also be speaking to members of the SEND team, Safeguarding and Pastoral teams as well as form tutors. This contact will continue on a needs basis as we acknowledge that some of our students require more support at this difficult time than others.

Whilst a lengthy letter, I hope that you can see that the school is adapting the processes to ensure that the student learning can continue whilst supporting all our families at such a difficult time. If you have any queries, then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Mark Boughey

**Headteacher**



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## What is home learning?

As a school we realise that home learning will never be a substitute for the learning your children are missing at school. We want to provide you with work that keeps you active and supports you with a routine during the closure.

## How can I access the work?

By now you should all be accessing your work using your school email, INSIGHT and Seneca Learning.



If you are still struggling with IT access contact your class teacher in the first instance and then if it can't be resolved contact Mr Vickers: [itsupport@wolstanton.shaw-education.org.uk](mailto:itsupport@wolstanton.shaw-education.org.uk)

## Looking after your wellbeing and mental health



Make time to speak to your friends or a relative on a daily basis.

Try to keep to a routine as best as you can. Start the day with Joe Wicks, Make sure that you make time for exercise



Try to limit your time on your phones, put them away whilst working and set limits for how long you are on them.

Plan different activities throughout your day, do some baking or read a book.



Go to bed at a sensible time so you are ready for the next day.

## Additional online learning resources:



**BBC Bitesize** - have a range of subjects delivered each day

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

**Oak National Academy** – Online Classroom and resource hub that can be used to support learning at home. Interactive lessons and activities to complete <https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>



**Seneca Learning** – online revision platform <https://www.senecalearning.com/>

## We need help with the learning?

Remember your teachers are still working from home too! If you have any questions about the work set, then email the member of staff.



## Tips for working from home



Find a place to work with natural daylight. Enjoy the sunshine- you could even choose to work outside in your garden if you like.



Make sure you have all the equipment you will need, Pens, Pencils, Paper and School books.



Set up your work space, you do not need to work alone. If you were in school you would be around others. You can interact with your family.

## Your new 'School Day'

Your school day won't be the same at home. Here is a suggestion of how to structure your day.



**8am** Keep to a routine, get up and get dressed



**9am** Have breakfast, spend time with your family discussing your plans for the day. Set up your work station.

**10-12pm** Start to complete the learning tasks from your teachers

**12pm** Have lunch and discuss the tasks you have completed

**1pm** Have some quiet time

**2pm** Complete any remaining tasks

**3pm** Go for your daily exercise, remember only stay with your family