



Dear Parents/Carers

I had hope that this would have been the first communication with you following the Christmas break, with a message to welcome all students back to school. However, circumstances are different and as you receive this edition, we are again closed to the vast majority of students who are working from home.

On that note, thank you for the many messages of support and thanks that you have been sending, in particular for the work that teachers are providing remotely. We have certainly moved on from the initial lockdown period back in March of last year, with systems in place to ensure, as far as possible, that students receive learning in line with their normal timetable which is of high quality and supported by more live lesson support from teachers. I am sure that you will join me in thanking all teachers, who are working again in a very unusual way, to make sure that students continue with their sequence of learning, are able to submit work / assessments and stay on track. In school, only those students who absolutely must attend are receiving excellent support from Mrs Quye, SENCo and her dedicated team in Learning Support, along with Mrs Rumsey and our Cover Supervisor team.

As you know, there has been so much discussed about schools in the news, that to try to give a response now would be impossible. However, a brief timeline of events looks similar to this: Schools were planning for staggered return of students during the Christmas break. We then received news that some schools would open (Primary) whilst others were to close for an additional week, to devote time to prepare to deliver Lateral Flow Testing. Then the announcement that schools were to close fully until February 12th and deliver high quality distance learning was made.

This was followed by an announcement that Btec / Vocational exams must still take place; then the decision that it is for schools to decide whether Btec/Vocational exams take place. This was then followed by the announcement that SATs, GCSE exams and A Level exams would not take place. All within the space of this week. Phew!

Needless to say, it has been a challenge to respond but I am indebted to all staff and the support of the Trust for the work that they have done to make sure that student wellbeing and learning remains at the fore of what we do. The obvious question and one that we also dearly want answers to, is how will Year 11 GCSE grades actually be determined and when will we know what the procedure will be? Please rest assured that we will keep you informed as and when we can so that our Year 11 students get all of the support and guidance that they deserve. I think that is enough from me this week, so although not my first communication, I will take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year ! Stay safe

John Parr
Headteacher

S.P.O.A

Should you require additional support during lockdown, families can contact SPOA (Single point of access), they will conduct a brief survey and will then be able to direct you to the most appropriate support. Their contact number is 03333583654

Thank you

We are coming towards the end of the first week of another lockdown and students have been brilliant at accessing their online learning. I know that this is a challenging time for all of us but just wanted to remind you that we are here to help if needed. The effects of being at home and feeling isolated are quite normal but if your son/daughter requires some additional support there are various online resources that offer advice such as:

www.kooth.com

[Home - Kooth](http://www.kooth.com)

Kooth is your online mental wellbeing community. Access free, safe and anonymous support.

www.kooth.com

www.youngminds.org.uk



[YoungMinds - children and young people's mental health charity](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

We're the UK's leading charity fighting for children and young people's mental health. We will make sure all young people get the best possible mental health support and have the resilience to overcome life's challenges.

www.youngminds.org.uk

Additionally, if they require any pastoral support from school please email the relevant person:

Key stage 3 (Years 7,8 & 9) - Mr Wright philip.wright@cssschool.co.uk

Key stage 4 (Years 10 & 11)/Safeguarding - Mr Longhurst martyn.longhurst@cssschool.co.uk

SEN - Mrs Quye su.quye@cssschool.co.uk


Teams - Mr Bird daniel.bird@cssschool.co.uk

We are all here to help you over the coming weeks.

Stay safe,
Mr Longhurst

Keeping Active during Lockdown

For those students that would like some ideas of how to keep active at home throughout lockdown we have provided a number of different workouts for you to have a go at should you wish to. All the images on the PowerPoint are linked to a YouTube video that you can follow along, they are a great way of keeping active.

 [Netflix-Master-Copy.pdf](#) - this is the link that is on SharePoint which students will be able to access. It is also on the school [website](#) in the extracurricular section under the main curriculum tab.



IT and distance learning update

Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage



A national lockdown is upon us again, but the big difference is that the staff of Church Stretton School were more than ready to deliver live lessons from day 1 of lockdown part 3! Whilst we would rather parents, carers and students didn't have to see the results of the hard work, training and planning that staff have put in behind the scenes to prepare for such a situation, we are grateful and proud of all they have done, and continue to do, to ensure your children are getting the very best educational experience even in these difficult and strange times. Early analysis of the lessons delivered by staff this week shows that every lesson was provided for, with work set on Go4Schools and that 95% of lessons were delivered fully or partially through MS Teams. A brilliant effort by all staff.

With many schools still trying to come to grips with delivering distance learning the Department for Education is setting out rigorous remote learning expectations, which we are delighted to say we are already more than meeting. We will now be concentrating on ensuring that all students receive regular, timely feedback on the work they are completing to allow them to see the progress they are making and the next steps that will allow them to make further progress. This will allow students to remain on track and help prevent gaps in their knowledge and understanding forming.

We will continue to monitor students' attendance at live lessons and their level engagement through regular assessments, which will allow teaching staff to quickly identify any underachievement and avoid students falling behind. We have assembled a team of distance learning champions, DLC's for short, who are collating registers to identify non-attenders who will then be contacted by Mr Jones, Miss Whitcombe or Mr Wright. They will try to identify any barriers to attending live lessons and the completion of remote learning activities and we will do all that we can to help parents, carers and students to overcome these barriers.

Mr Morgan is already doing a huge amount to help parents, carers and students to overcome barriers around the use of IT and as always, he is doing a fantastic job, which I am sure many of you appreciate. One thing to bear in mind is that the demand for MS Teams, other Office365 apps and broadband signal is huge at the moment and this is causing issues that are beyond our control. Mr Morgan will always do all that he can to help and support parents, carers and students with IT problems and queries, but do please be patient as he is trying to support 565 students remotely!

There is a huge number of self-help videos and guides on the [school website](#), which we are constantly adding to as we discover new solutions to old problems, so please make use of them as they may get your children back to their learning sooner. Students were sent the following distance learning guide sheet via email to help support them with their remote learning:

Distance learning how to videos and user guides for students

[What to do if I can't login to Office365](#)

Accessing Go4Schools

[How to access Go4Schools \(and change your password if you need to!\)](#)

Accessing Teams on a PC/Laptop/Chromebook

[Video 1 - How to login to Teams](#)

[Video 2 - How to find your lessons, join in an acceptable way and ask questions](#)

[Video 3 – Navigating around your virtual classroom](#)

[Video 4 – The Class Notebook](#)

[Video 5 - Assignments](#)

Accessing Teams on a mobile device/tablet

[Video 1 – Getting ready to use your mobile device](#)

[Video 2 – How to join a lesson and ask questions](#)

[Video 3 – How to access your calendar and assignments](#)

[Video 4 – How to access the class notebook](#)

User guides

[Acceptable use guidance](#)

[MS Teams user guide for students](#)

[How to access Teams lessons on a PC/Chromebook](#)

[How to access Teams lessons on a mobile device/tablet](#)

Most students are beginning to settle into the new way of learning, but if there is anything, we can help with that is not covered in the help videos and guides than please let us know via admin@csschool.co.uk and we will do all we can to help to support you and your children.

Work Experience Cancellation

Attention Year 10 Parents

Dear Parents/ Carers

It is with regret that the school has decided to cancel Year 10 Work Experience week in July. We would have begun the process in September but delayed our decision holding out hope the new year would see an improvement of the chances of this activity occurring. With the new lockdown it is untenable for every student to secure work experience and for our health and safety checks to be completed.

The school values work experience as an important part of careers education and life skills, and has kept this going even when this was removed as a statutory requirement placed on schools. There are alternatives we are looking at. Many organisations and companies are offering virtual work experience offers which we will keep both students and parents informed about. If circumstances allow in the summer term, we are hoping to bring students a week of different experiences of the world of work enlisting local business and former students.

Any further enquiries please contact me on lee.overton@csschool.co.uk

REMOTE EDUCATION 10 TOP TIPS FOR CHILDREN

Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For students, it's the perfect way to ensure they still get the education they need, despite not being at school. However, it also requires a level of discipline and careful planning. That's why we've created this guide to help pupils understand different aspects of remote education and to support them in ensuring their experience is as safe and secure as it can be.

1. TREAT REMOTE EDUCATION THE SAME AS CLASSROOM LEARNING

Despite being at home, it's important to remember the same rules apply as being in the classroom, particularly in respect of behavior and conduct. Focus on learning and don't get distracted by your surroundings.



3. TAKE REGULAR SCREEN BREAKS

Whilst remote education might be an exciting experience to begin with, having prolonged periods of time in front of a screen isn't always healthy. Remember to have regular screen breaks where possible and in your spare time, try to get some fresh air and enjoy other activities away from electronic devices.



5. ONLY COMMUNICATE THROUGH APPROVED SCHOOL PORTALS AND PLATFORMS

It's important that you send messages and any pictures or images required for class through approved school channels, such as internal learning portals or approved platforms. This will help to keep your personal information safe and secure.



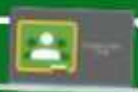
7. DRESS IN SCHOOL UNIFORM

As part of your learning environment, try to maintain school uniform/dress. This will help as part of replicating classroom learning in the home. Try to avoid wearing anything too casual as this could be deemed inappropriate for school.



9. DON'T USE SCHOOL PLATFORMS TO DISCUSS PERSONAL MATTERS.

It's important to keep your school communication channels separate from your own personal communication with friends and family. Don't be tempted to engage in casual discussions or send images, videos or links via official school apps or platforms that aren't associated with your learning.



2. USE CLASSROOM LANGUAGE

If you are encouraged to communicate through emails and online messages, don't use shorthand text speak and write as though you would speak in class. Remember to be respectful and polite and avoid posting negative comments or spamming the chat.



4. ALWAYS CONDUCT VIDEO LEARNING IN AN OPEN SPACE AT HOME

To get the best experience from remote education, it's important to create the right environment around you. Try to set up a 'mock classroom desk' at home in an open space so parents can supervise if necessary. Avoid bedrooms as this could be considered inappropriate.



6. STICK TO TEACHER RULES AND GUIDELINES AROUND REMOTE EDUCATION

Your school should issue you with guidance on remote education and the rules to follow. Always maintain classroom behaviour and try to remember that you are in a learning environment and not a social setting.



8. DON'T SHARE PASSWORDS OR OTHER SENSITIVE INFORMATION

In order to begin your online lessons or to gain access to learning materials, you may be provided with login details and passwords. In the same way you keep your personal details private, always keep these safe and never share them with others.



10. LOOK AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

Remote education ultimately means working alone and missing out on daily social interaction with your friends. If you ever feel frustrated, low or sad, it's important to discuss how you feel with your parents or your teacher. Keeping in touch with friends over the phone or on social media can also help to keep your spirits up.



REMOTE EDUCATION 10 TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For parents and carers, remote education isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote education experience.

1. TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

As a parent or carer, your school may have explained how remote education works already, but children may still need help. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



2. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S COMMUNICATION AND ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



3. ESTABLISH A DAILY SCHEDULE AND ROUTINE

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



4. ENCOURAGE SCREEN BREAKS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AWAY FROM DEVICES

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks; however, it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



5. ENSURE YOUR LEARNING DEVICE IS IN PUBLIC SPACE IN THE HOME

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral, with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



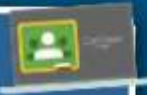
6. IMPLEMENT SAFETY CONTROLS AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS ON APPS AND SOFTWARE

Dependant on how your school implements remote education, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



7. ENSURE YOUR CHILD ONLY USES OFFICIAL SCHOOL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



8. FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH RELEVANT SCHOOL POLICIES

Schools should have a policy on remote education that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



9. MAINTAIN FEEDBACK WITH TEACHERS

Engage in communication with teachers where possible, and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



10. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Remote education will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as they can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends every day might take its toll.

