



Samuel Ryder Academy

Education for a changing world

12th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Remote Learning Update

Following our recent Trust survey on remote learning, I am writing to congratulate students for their engagement and motivation during this time. There is good reason to be cheerful and optimistic about the future. Fundamentally, the aim of this period of remote learning is to maintain excellent relationships, a sense of community and a strong learning routine. Students have heeded the message about working hard now to give themselves solid foundations for their next stage of their educational journey. Many students have developed excellent independent learning habits and skills. These skills will be useful and transferable in the future. In addition, it is clear that students in examination years have maintained high levels of engagement and submission of work to keep all options open.

We appreciate that this phase of remote learning is a challenging time for parents too. Thank you for your extensive support and feedback. We are monitoring the levels of student engagement and we will be commending those students who are making a significant effort, while supporting those students who are finding remote learning difficult. If you are finding it difficult to support your child with remote learning do please contact the class teacher or Head of Year. Of course, you know best how to keep your child thriving while they are learning at home, but there might be some things the school can help you with too.

A key consideration for all parents is the wellbeing of their child during this phase of remote learning. Students are missing human contact and the vibrancy of a busy school. However, there are some aspects of the school's provision that parents might not be aware of, and which might be motivating and encouraging for children while they work at home. Firstly, all children should be encouraged by positive feedback and teachers are continuing to reward students with virtual reward points and E ACE postcards. These are displayed on Edulink. We have also established a SRA virtual wall of positivity on the school website to inspire and uplift our school and the wider community.

A challenge to wellbeing is the sedentary, screen-based life learners are now experiencing. Therefore, during non-contact periods, core PE, and immediately after the end of the school day, it is important that children do activities such as reading a book, getting some fresh air, doing sport or exercise, or doing something creative that doesn't involve a screen.

Finally, I must publicly thank the large number of staff who have done a remarkable job in balancing the delivery demands of high-quality remote learning. This has included both a mixture of 'synchronous' teaching through Microsoft Teams (where the teacher and students are engaged in the lesson at the same time), and 'non-synchronous' teaching using the Year Group One Drive (where the setting and doing of the work are at different times). Teachers will continue to undertake professional development to ensure that they are as skilled as possible in the delivery of remote learning in all its forms. We will continue to ensure that the provision we provide over the coming weeks is of the highest quality.

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In many cases, your child will find that they are doing better than they realise in the circumstances. From the school's perspective, we have been immensely proud and will continue to celebrate their success.

Yours faithfully

L Timpson

Miss L Timpson
Assistant Headteacher

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