

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are staying well.

### **Learning for pupils at Wootton Upper School:**

I have spoken with a number of parents regarding our blended learning approach, and feel it would be useful to explain our plans a little more.

Children learn in a number of ways. By listening to teachers and identifying what they understand in that moment (live teaching), by repetition and practising skills (short answer questions and activities) and by applying knowledge (creating longer creative pieces, solving problems, longer written answers). The independent work set via Show My Homework allows each child to embed their learning, revisit topics that have been learnt before that link to current topics, and use and apply their learning. The work that they submit to teachers allows staff to plan their next lessons to revisit the areas that have not been learnt well, and build upon what their pupils do know.

The blend of online learning and set work means that we can provide your child with a range of learning opportunities to support their progress, as well as ensuring they do not need to be in front of a screen for 5 hours a day. I would encourage all our learners to complete a number of tasks each day at a desk or table, away from their digital devices.

Please feel free to complete our short survey: [Please click to complete survey](#)

We will respond to common questions via an FAQs sheet.

### **Support at Wootton Upper School:**

We know our Year 11 in particular are concerned about their GCSEs, and recent announcements. The government are consulting on what will replace exams this year. When we have firm guidance, we will share information with you. Please try to support them to keep learning and focus on areas they can control rather than the uncertainty.

It is worth us all remembering to encourage young people to exercise regularly, eat healthily, stay safe online and try to maintain regular interests such as reading, art, music, gardening, cooking, modelling and so on. We always love to hear what our pupils are achieving! Please access our website for resources to support your child's wellbeing.

Staff have been really impressed by the approach of our pupils, especially during live lessons. Pupils have been respectful and engaged and our teachers would like to pass on thanks to you as their parents or carers.

I would like to thank **Debbie and Rick Sucher from RJS Electronics Ltd.** for donating eight new laptops to support our pupils.



Mrs Chick - Assistant Principal (Head of Science), and Mr Kane Year Leader for Year 11 receiving the laptops in our new reception area.

Please see below information if your child's learning would be supported by accessing more mobile data for their device. I have also listed regular contact emails for your information.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'CMCMORN'.

Mrs McMorn

Head of School

### **Scheme to increase mobile data to support learning**

There is a government scheme to increase data allowances on mobile devices to support young people through the lockdown. This scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted.

Schools, trusts and local authorities can request mobile data increases for young people who:

- Do not have fixed broadband at home
- Cannot afford additional data for their devices
- Are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education
- Are clinically extremely vulnerable

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit: **Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile**. Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage.

For each request, we need to know:

- The name of the account holder (this may not necessarily be the name of the student)
- The number of the mobile device
- The mobile network of that device (for example Three)

Each provider will vary in how quickly they process requests. Once a network provider has processed a data increase, they'll send a text message to the account holder. It is also possible to check the status of requests through the online service.

If this is something you think you may benefit from and be eligible for, please fill out this very brief form using the link below. You must make additional submissions if you are applying for more than one child. <http://bit.ly/3nkEPXW>

### **Useful emails**

[safeguarding@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@wootton.beds.sch.uk) For safeguarding support or concerns

[COVID19@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:COVID19@wootton.beds.sch.uk) Please let us know if your child tests positive for Covid, and any other Covid related issues.

[attendance@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@wootton.beds.sch.uk) If your child is unwell and cannot attend a live lesson, or complete independent work.

[istewart@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:istewart@wootton.beds.sch.uk) If you would like to discuss whether we are able to help your child with accessing a device to support learning.