



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

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Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

2 February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

### Remote Learning Update February 2021

I am writing once again to update you on some developments and updates to our Remote Learning as we move through the term. We want to ensure we are continuing to support you and your families during this difficult time and appreciate all feedback and suggestions we have received. We have been hugely impressed by the engagement of Fitzharrys students with our live and recorded lessons and continue to work with those that have struggled to access so far. Below I will summarise key messages as we move into a new month.

#### 1. Assessment

We are aware that many families will be anxious to know our plans for Assessment at KS4 and 5. We are awaiting confirmation from Ofqual and the Department of Education, whose consultation ended last week, and will update families as soon as we can. In the meantime, we will continue to prepare your child through the delivery of content, revision, and assessment skills through remote lessons.

#### 2. Marking and feedback

As explained in my last letter, students should now be receiving regular feedback in all subjects through the form of fortnightly quizzes and set tasks. A reminder that the frequency of the set tasks is below:

Subject	KS3	KS4
English/Maths/Science	1 per fortnight	At least 1 per fortnight
Humanities/Languages	2 per term (up to Feb half term)	At least 1 per fortnight
All other subjects	1 per term (up to Feb half term)	At least 1 per fortnight



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An instructional video was uploaded to epraise last week to support your child with uploading work and receiving feedback, so please do encourage them to watch this if they have not done so already.

### 3. Homework and wellbeing

Over the last two weeks we have reviewed our approach to homework and are grateful for the feedback and comments we have received from students and families. As a result, we have decided to make changes to our homework setting approach. Our approach will be as follows: (changes coming into force from Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February)

#### KS3:

Students in years 7-9 will no longer receive homework. We hope that this will enable students to complete all lesson tasks to the best of their ability. Students will also receive one daily suggested wellbeing activity. These will be shared on a weekly basis by form tutors or their head of year and will involve a variety of activities including physical exercise, mindfulness and reading. You will receive further information about this from the Pastoral Team later this week.

For students who wish to further their understanding or find themselves finishing work quickly we will be sharing challenging activities and further reading in lessons.

#### KS4:

For students in Years 10 and 11 they will only receive the following homework tasks:

- Where lesson tasks are incomplete, or extension work is required from lessons.
- Where quizzes or assessment tasks, as per the cycle in point 2, cannot be completed in lesson time.

We hope that this will enable all students to complete lesson tasks fully, staying on track with their GCSE and BTEC qualifications, and receive appropriate support and feedback from their teachers. Students will also receive suggested wellbeing activities to complete from their form tutor or Head of Year.

We hope that these changes will support your child's wellbeing and allow for more time spent away from their computers.

### 4. Attending online

We are aware that a minority of our students are logging into live lessons but failing to participate fully. Please support the school and their learning by ensuring that any potential distractions are removed during lesson times, such as gaming devices or



mobile phones, to ensure that they engage fully with their lessons. We thank you for your support with this.

### 5. Screen-free time

We are very pleased with the work and effort put in by staff and students with remote learning but are conscious that now more than ever we are all having to spend a lot of time in front of a screen. To ensure greater balance we have asked all teachers to plan sections of or whole lessons away from computer screens. This may be by encouraging practical, creative, or extended writing tasks that encourage your child to be away from their computers for periods of the day. We hope that you see this in the coming weeks and welcome any feedback you have. Please do encourage your child to engage with these activities and refrain from looking at their devices during these times!

We hope that you will welcome these adjustments and updates. We will continue to review our provision regularly and update you of any changes. Once again, we would like to thank you for your continued support and feedback and say how proud we are of the work being done by the Fitzharrys Community at this time.

Yours sincerely,



Alicia Corley  
Deputy Head of School



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