



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School
Northcourt Road
Abingdon
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Head of School: Mr W Speke BA (Hons)

24 September 2020

Dear parent/carer

Homework and E-Praise update

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Deputy Head of School. I very much look forward to working with the Fitzharrys community, and hope to support in any way I can during these unprecedented times.

Homework

I am writing to update you on some improvements we are making to the way we set and review homework, and also the way in which the system 'E-Praise' will be used moving forward.

We are working hard as a staff and with students to ensure we always set high quality homework that is challenging, manageable, and well-supported. Currently, homework is set in all subjects via Bromcom, with information available through My Child at School (MCAS). Over the course of the next few weeks we will be looking to move this process onto E-Praise, a system many of you will already be familiar with. Although the transition will be gradual and training will be provided for students, all homework will be set on this platform from Monday 5th October. Work will also continue to be written in student planners.

We have found that E-Praise will offer a simpler and more effective way of setting homework, allowing for the sharing of links to resources and supporting materials. It will also allow for more effective submission of work and communication between students, school, and families, respectively.

Over the course of Computer Science lessons (KS3) and through Fitz Focus plus (KS4) in the coming weeks we will provide support and training for students in how to use E-Praise effectively, with a focus on how it can be used to view and submit homework tasks. We will also continue to use E-Praise to reward students and award the all-important House Points.



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Preparation for potential bubble, partial or school closures due to Covid19

We also have our eyes on the continuing developments in the Covid19 pandemic. In the event of any further bubble, partial or full school closures we feel well prepared to support students working in a home environment.

We will use E-Praise as our method of setting schoolwork. This will be a simple process and with students' familiarity with the programme we anticipate that this will be a smooth transition. The move will allow students to access a clear and well-presented daily planner, allowing them to plan their time effectively. They will also be able to mark work as complete, respond to their teacher, access lesson resources, and submit any required tasks.

I am also sending a help guide for parents which explains how epraise works and can be accessed by families. I have been informed of how well the students at Fitzharrys School coped during the difficult lockdown period and we have every confidence that if any further closures are required they will continue to make us proud with their learning, progress and positive attitudes.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Alicia Corley
Deputy Head of School



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