

Aspiration
Respect
Endeavour

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Roding Valley
HIGH SCHOOL

22nd June 2020

Dear Year 10 and 12 Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to give you an update on our home learning 'Teaching & Learning strategy' as we enter the last few weeks of this academic year. It has been brilliant to welcome back students for their Progress and Welfare meetings, the overwhelming feedback and levels of attendance have been positive. If your child has not yet attended then we look forward to seeing them later this week. The meetings are proving to be both valuable and motivating, helping students to re-engage with school in a physical sense.

As I am sure you're aware, the challenges of home learning have been difficult to face at times. Learning independently has been a completely new experience for so many students. Our teachers have also had to adapt their teaching strategies immensely to support learning at home. We have been working to overcome any of these challenges and put in place a comprehensive and consistent home learning package. As a school, we have really appreciated your support as our home learning provision evolves and adapts.

Roding Valley High School has been committed, from the outset to providing home learning via our trusted platform, Google Classroom. We are a proactive school who had already invested in Google Classroom prior to the pandemic as we had recognised it as an excellent teaching resource, which offered endless opportunities. As you are aware, students are set an individual assignment per subject - that is due in at the end of each week. Our teachers have been utilising technology to provide feedback on work and assignments submitted via Google classroom. We understand that having feedback is very powerful for our students, to not only continue to engage in work but to also make those vital improvements where necessary. We have developed a [student guide](#) for the use of Google Classroom which can be found on our website.

We also understand that having a structure for learning is important. I am aware that many of you may have encouraged your child to stick to our '[RVHS suggested timetable](#)' guidance that was released in April. This timetable outlines how many hours of study are recommended in each subject. Our subject teachers plan their assignments according to this structure - but if your son or daughter is having difficulty with time management, then please do not hesitate to email the subject teacher directly and this can be discussed.

I hope you have already seen/had access to some of the excellent pre-recorded teaching videos from our subject departments; many of which appear on our subject YouTube channel. These videos are constructed by our subject teachers; who know that having a subject specialist explain difficult content can go a long way. These pre-recorded videos allow students to see and hear from their own subject teachers. These recorded lessons have many benefits; they can be paused and rewound at any time, watched at any time, watched numerous times during the week and of course provide welfare benefits such as a familiar, friendly face.



From the **29th June**, our commitment is that every single subject provides a minimum of one video recorded lesson per week to sit alongside their assignment. In many department areas, this is already happening. This video recording, as outlined above, will discuss the week's assignment and explain any difficult content that could result in misunderstanding if not explained by a teacher. We really hope that these will support our students to deepen their understanding of the subjects that they study. It also adds a personal face to face element to the assignment and the further benefit of a video is that it can be repeated and paused to assist learning. This is not something that can happen in a 'live' situation.

Further to this, our teaching staff are always on hand to help further if it is needed. We are encouraging students to reach out to them either by commenting on the work set via Google classroom or emailing them. Having this one to one contact can help to solve problems quickly and effectively. Please [click on this link](#) if your son/daughter is still having difficulties with submitting work or seeing their feedback.

In regards to 'live lessons', this provision began for our Year 12 (post 16) cohort in April and again has evolved to the comprehensive offer it is today. Every student should have access to one 'live' session a week in each A level subject studied. This may take the form of a clinic, lesson or online forum. Given that we are all learning together in this new remote experience, we feel that we can now try to extend this provision to the Year 10 cohort, who will have access to some live sessions in their Ebacc subjects alongside their online assignments and video recorded teaching. We are working on developing this practice further and would hope that every student in Year 10 will have access to this opportunity. I do need to reiterate that these live sessions are only to supplement the ongoing curriculum and assignments being set. The video recorded instruction is just as, if not more so, a valuable aid to learning. Both mediums provide an opportunity for increased 'face to face' access to learning. However, live lessons can pose issues around the access to technology; availability of equipment and staff capacity.

We have introduced online training for teachers and have written a student etiquette which **MUST** be followed by students when attending a 'live' session. In a Year 10 session there will always be two teachers online. This student etiquette has been emailed to students and is attached [here](#), please can I ask that you go through it with your child. Live lessons are run through the 'Google Meets' tool, which is connected to Google classroom. All students will receive email invitations from the Google classroom teacher; teachers will never invite them online from any other medium.

Google Meet, also has some brilliant features and will require your child to download them in advance. Please download the 'Nod Reaction' app by [clicking here](#). Once downloaded, this will be automatically connected to their Google Meet screen. Once in their live lessons, their teachers will guide them on how to use it.

Please select the [Live lessons](#) link for the full schedule and timings of the online sessions available to your child, these will include invites to Master classes - aiming for grade 7+. As said, your child will receive individual invitations for each live session - so please do encourage them to check their emails at the beginning of each weekday.

Outlined below, is an overview of our home learning package for **Year 10 and Year 12** I am sure that you would agree that it is a comprehensive package in these unprecedented times. This is the package as it stands presently and will, of course, evolve as we move into the next academic year:

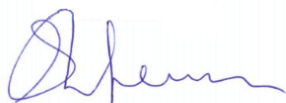
Year group	Live lessons Subjects and Regularity:	Video Recorded Teaching:	Google Classroom Assignments	Extra Provision Offered to Support Home Learning:
10	<p>From 29th June 2020 commitment is: <u>EBACC offering</u> 1 online face-to-face session per child per subject, Maths, English, Science, Hums and MFL per week</p> <p>Could include: Clinics/drop-ins/teaching - 2 members of staff per session 20 mins (min)</p> <p><u>Other Subjects</u> Not at this present stage - curriculum delivered via video recorded teaching and Google classroom.</p>	<p><u>All Subjects offering:</u></p> <p>Alongside each assignment that is set, there is one instructional video to accompany it - 5 mins (min) x1 a week.</p> <p>Many faculties are already doing this, but the commitment is that from 29th June we will endeavour to have this in place for every assignment.</p>	<p><u>All Subjects offering:</u></p> <p>1x assignment set per week - as per the expectation since the site closure.</p>	<p>Challenge & Enrichment weekly Brain Boosters</p> <p>Humanities broadcast</p> <p>Maths Bulletin</p> <p>Roding Reads</p> <p>PE challenges & virtual Sports Day</p> <p>Virtual House competitions</p> <p>Subject master classes- students will be individually invited</p>

Year group	Live lessons Subjects and Regularity:	Video Recorded Teaching:	Google Classroom Assignments	Extra Provision Offered to Support Home Learning:
12	<p>From 29th June 2020 commitment is: <u>All Subjects</u></p> <p><u>At least</u> 1 online face-to-face teaching session per child, per subject, per week</p> <p>In addition, there could be: Clinics/drop-ins, surgeries</p>	<p>As appropriate to support the online teaching</p>	<p><u>All Subjects offering:</u> Minimum of 1x assignment set per week in <u>all subjects / units taught</u></p>	<p>UCAS support</p> <p>Careers support</p> <p>Challenge & Enrichment weekly Brain Boosters</p> <p>Humanities Broadcast</p> <p>Maths Bulletin</p> <p>Roding Reads</p> <p>PE challenges & virtual Sports Day</p> <p>Virtual House competitions</p>

As you are aware we are also being asked by the government to offer some on-site provision for Year 10 and Year 12 but this is to supplement and not replace the remote learning curriculum that we are currently offering. This onsite provision is also subject to strict control of student numbers and hence, we are unable to invite all students to attend. We are limited to 25% of the year group per day and this is an absolute maximum. This is also limited by staff availability to attend face to face teaching at this time. This provision will be made up of daily targeted subject-specific workshops/ sessions and will cover specific areas of need to catch up. Many of our students have engaged fully with the remote programme offered and are doing really well, for that they need to be congratulated.

Your child will receive a separate invite for the days that they will need to attend and with it will be the full instructions surrounding the details and timings of the session. Safety is our primary concern and students will be expected to observe the strict social distancing measures that we have put in place. It may be prudent to remind them of our addendum to the [Behaviour Policy](#) that we have in place. Please use [this link](#) to view my letter dated 5th June 2020, by agreeing to send your child into school you agree to the updated Home/ School Agreement. The sessions will be either morning or afternoon and arrival will be via the Brook Road gate only. All other gates are locked. Arrival will be the same procedure as for the Progress and Welfare meetings, students will sanitise hands on entry and queue by the cones spaced at 2 metre intervals. Strict social distancing and compliance with instructions given must be observed at all times. Any failure to comply will result in sanctions and exclusion. During the length of the session, maximum three hours, your child will only be able to leave their seat to go to the toilet. If it is a morning session then a packed lunch will be offered to students on arrival at a cost of £2.60. This will be paid by a deduction from your parent pay account. Students can bring a snack and a drink for a comfort break to have in their seat during the session, food must not be shared by students. Lunch will be provided to students in receipt of free school meal vouchers and this will not impact on their entitlement to the government voucher scheme.

With the kindest regards



Sharon Jenner
Headteacher