



Secondary Remote Learning Update

15th January 2021

Dear all,

As mentioned earlier in the week, from **Monday 18th January** we are making some changes to our remote learning offer in the Secondary phase. Key information is outlined below, but please also refer to the **Pupil Guide** and **Timetable** attached to this email.

Our Approach

Since the last lockdown, at CFS we have altered our approach to remote learning. Lessons are now led through recorded tuition in a variety of formats, with live feedback available from teachers during the normal lesson times, and the full timetable is on offer. This approach is recommended by many in education and considered highly inclusive; Ofsted's initial review of remote learning states that, 'live lessons aren't always best.' In the current situation, a recorded lesson can be a highly effective form of remote learning, allowing for detailed and creative coverage of the curriculum.

We have also tried to get the balance between providing pupils with more verbal and visual teaching than last time, whilst continuing to understand that not all families can support their children in accessing the lessons at specific times. We are also keen to ensure that, whilst the work has to be facilitated electronically, that pupils are not staring at a computer screen all day long. There is of course the argument that live lessons would offer this balance, if they were then recorded and made available afterwards to those who couldn't attend the lesson. However, if teachers are in live lessons all day, there is very little opportunity for them to provide any sort of meaningful feedback to those who are completing the work at a different time. This, therefore, would increase the learning gap between pupils depending on their home situation.

As has been communicated to parents, this is the method that has been in place since September and has been executed during any Scenario 2 (a whole bubble being asked to isolate) situation. Of course, last term this was for a maximum of two weeks at a times, and we are now in a very different scenario. As a school, we have always listened and reflected, and over the last two weeks we are hearing from many of you that – understandably – your child is missing that actual live interaction with their teachers and peers. And this is obviously something that is missing from our current approach.

To go to a full live lesson timetable would still not be appropriate, for all of the reasons outlined above – and is not advised externally. And it is important to note that even live lessons performed over a virtual platform can never, sadly, replicate the true school experience. But they can of course provide that important bridge and link back to some form of normality.

Going forward, we are therefore going to adopt a **hybrid approach**. **Our Secondary offer will still focus on the recorded tuition and interactive videos/learning, but now with some live lessons throughout the week to support, supplement and enhance this learning.** This balance should ensure that we still have a fully inclusive and effective approach, but that pupils and teachers feel more connected with each other.

As well as introducing the live lessons, we have also reflected on the feedback we have received in regard to the recorded tuition, and have been working hard to further enhance the provision here as well.

What is changing?

From Monday, the following alterations are being made:

- Years 10 and 11 will have one live lesson a week per GCSE subject, as well as a tutor check in on a Friday morning. These will be via Microsoft Teams.
- Years 7, 8 and 9 will have one live lesson a week in Maths, English and Science, as well as a tutor check in on a Friday morning. These will be via Microsoft Teams. Depending on the length of lockdown, how these lessons go, and the attendance we may look to extend the number of live lessons, expanding to other subjects in time.
- Teachers will now be available for live feedback and support for the recorded tuition lessons either through the Satchel One discussion tool – as currently – or through a Microsoft Teams drop-in session where pupils will be able to see their teacher when asking for support. Teachers will make it clear which method they will be using when they upload the work on Satchel One. Whilst much of the feedback will still be via the Satchel One discussion tool – which many pupils have told us they prefer – there will be increased opportunity for pupils to actually see their teachers and, again, we hope this mixture will support all learners in different ways.
- Increased dialogue, contextualisation and information will be put in the Satchel One description boxes to help both pupils and parents.
- Teachers are working together to increase their abilities in video lessons, use of Loom etc, to enhance the remote learning experience.
- We are adopting a more formalised approach to how the work is presented on Satchel One so that all lessons are titled in a similar way, with consistent deadline etc.
- As we did during the last lockdown, over the next few weeks you will see an increase in extra enrichment opportunities, House events, weekly assemblies, and a return of video messages from Senior Leaders, tutors and Heads of Year.

How will the live lessons work alongside the rest of the timetable?

For most lessons, pupils will continue to follow their normal two-week timetable, and each subject will occur at the time it would have in school. For the recorded tuition the video/work is available for longer than the lesson time itself, but the lesson slot is the time that the teacher will be on hand for live feedback and support on the work set. Whilst engagement is very strong and we are very pleased with the submissions coming in, we are currently finding that many pupils are not completing work at the normal timetable times, which does limit the opportunity for them to access this instant feedback and support. We do understand that, as outlined above, it may be that it is impossible for pupils to follow this set timetable at home due to access to a device etc, but where this is possible **we would strongly recommend it. This will help pupils to not only have more interaction with their teachers, who are readily on hand whenever they would normally have been teaching, but will also help pupils to organise their time and keep on top of the flow of work.**

The live lessons will happen within this timetable; for these lessons pupils will need to log into Microsoft Teams where the learning will be delivered to them directly by the teacher, instead of via Satchel One. The live lesson timetable is attached so you can clearly see, across the two-week timetable, when these will be happening for your child. Obviously, even more so than the live feedback, pupils need to be available to study these subjects at the specific times stated in order to access the full live experience – although the lesson will be recorded and made available to all those who are unavoidably unable to attend.



Please note there are a couple of very small changes to the normal timetable in Key Stage 4. For example in Year 11, one or two classes would have had PSHE when the rest of the Year group were in English; for the purpose of the live lessons all pupils will now have English at the same time. This is outlined on the timetable.

How pupils use Teams to participate in the Live Lessons is outlined on the Pupil Guide, also attached. If you have any technical issues please contact remote-support@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk.

Are these live lessons compulsory?

Because of varying contexts at home and unavoidable situations meaning that not all pupils can access the lessons at a prescribed time, the live lessons are not compulsory but **strongly encouraged**. We will be tracking attendance and contacting parents/pupils who are not attending to have a conversation as to why this is the case. It may be unavoidable of course, but we hope you understand it is important for us to ascertain this, as it really is important that those who can attend do so.

For pupils who cannot make the live lesson, if they go onto the Channel – as described in the Pupil Guide – after the lesson, they will see a recording of the lesson. It is vital that all pupils access this work, even if at a later time, as the live lessons will feed into the full programme of study.

What about Primary?

Many of you also have children in the Primary phase, and may be wondering if this is something that we will be bringing in lower down the School as well. As an All-Through school we strive for consistency as much as possible – and certainly our original method for Scenario 2 situations was very similar. However, some things are fundamentally different between the two age groups. For instance, it is obviously harder for our youngest pupils to engage in a prolonged live lesson via a virtual platform. It is also important to note that – due to the greater number of Primary pupils in school each day – each week half of the Primary teaching team are in school, which makes it very difficult for a consistent timetable of live lessons to be delivered throughout the week. Finally, Primary pupils' link to normal school life perhaps already feels greater by the fact that their whole day is being led and delivered by one or two class teachers. That said, over the next week we will be investigating ways in which a weekly live session for Primary pupils could be integrated into the timetable. If we think it is possible, with staffing needs in school, and we believe it to be appropriate and productive for our younger learners, we will be in contact with further information.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this information and, again, for your feedback, ideas and continued support and understanding. It makes us so sad that we are here again; recorded lessons, live lessons, Teams, Satchel One... none of it comes close to having the pupils in school, with all of their class mates and teachers, being taught in person. But until we can return to this – in the not too distance future we sincerely hope – we believe that this hybrid approach will ensure that our pupils continue to progress academically, whilst also receiving the pastoral and social support that is so important in these difficult times.

Kind regards,

Mrs Louise New
Principal

&

Mr Ben Phillips
Deputy Principal (Teaching and Learning)