

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Remote Learning Update**

We have seen some fantastic work being produced by pupils over the past three weeks- some of this is featured each week in our bulletin and Facebook page. We have also loved seeing the entries coming in for our 'Ready, Set, Cook' competition- the sweet and savoury bread items look delicious and I think there has been lots of fun had by those who've been able to take part so far.

We all realise what a challenge it is for the children to learn remotely, and we like you are keen to see the children return as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, it's important that together we create as much structure for them as is possible, we have seen great increases in engagement with the work that has been set by teachers over the past week and thank you to both the children and you as parents for supporting this. We know it takes a lot to adapt to remote learning and we very much appreciate the efforts of everyone.

### **Expectations for remote learning**

Each day, there are 5 hours of learning set for pupils. The government has set out the expectations for the children's learning and I know you, like us do not want them to fall behind their peers so it is important that the children do not see this as optional and that they all undertake this amount of learning time every day. Please do expect that our staff will be in contact with you if we are concerned about your child's engagement as it is essential that we work together to remove any barriers that you might have to enabling access.

This has been a hugely disruptive year in education and we know that it will take time to recover the losses. We are already working on plans for when children are able to return to school to be able to identify the gaps they might have and to accelerate their progress. As none of us know when this might be, the best thing we can do right now is to ensure that pupils are able to engage with the minimum expectation of 5 hours per day. If you are having any issues with this, please reach out to your child's form tutor who will do their best to provide the right support.

Hopefully you will have noticed a significant difference to the quality of remote learning in this lockdown. This is a priority for us as we know the difference it will make in the long term to pupils. There has been a little confusion regarding the packs of work sent via the post. The paper resources are in addition to the work set via Microsoft Teams for pupils and many of them are designed to support a number of lessons i.e. not to be done at once. We have heard of instances where pupils are working their way through the paper resources and not checking ClassCharts or logging in to Microsoft Teams. This is likely to result in your child falling behind their peers.

Each day, pupils should check ClassCharts for a reminder of which lessons they have. They should then log in to Microsoft Teams where there will be assignments set for them to complete. The explanation of the lesson activities will indicate which paper resources (if any) are required for the lesson.

When pupils log in to [www.office.com](http://www.office.com) they are taken to the pupil SharePoint. Here they will find a guide for using Microsoft Teams and video tutorials. Please use this if there are any problems with accessing work.

## **Changes to remote learning from Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> February**

To support our continuing improvements, we are going to make some adjustments to the remote learning timetable from **Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> February** which we want you to support:

### **1. Structure of the school day**

The timetable will continue to have two subjects per day, each lasting for 2 hours and 15 minutes. Alongside this, there will be a 30-minute daily tutor time activity. The school day will begin at 9am and end at 3pm, with two 15-minute screen breaks in the day along with a 30-minute lunch break.

We will expect all work to be submitted to teachers on the same day on Microsoft Teams.

**Full details of this are explained in our 'Guide to Remote Learning'**

<https://poltairschool.co.uk/files/Poltair-Remote-Learning-Guide.pdf>

### **2. Live starts to lessons**

From Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, all lessons will start live via Microsoft Teams, a platform that all pupils can access by logging in on any device that connects to the Internet with their school username and password. The purpose of this is to 'meet and greet' pupils and to explain the learning activities that are expected to complete. We know that the familiarity of seeing their class teacher and feeling 'part of a class' makes a difference to pupil's well-being.

**Full details of this are explained in our 'Guide to Remote Learning'**

<https://poltairschool.co.uk/files/Poltair-Remote-Learning-Guide.pdf>

### **3. Tutor activities**

Between 11.45 and 12.15 each day there will be a tutor activity as follows:

<b>Key Stage 3</b>	<b>Key Stage 4</b>
One live tutor time with the Form Tutor	One live tutor time with the Form Tutor
One live assembly with the Head of Year	One live assembly with the Head of Year
Three reading sessions led live by a member of the tutor team	Three core revision sessions set as an assignment on Microsoft Teams

**Full details of this are explained in our 'Guide to Remote Learning'**

<https://poltairschool.co.uk/files/Poltair-Remote-Learning-Guide.pdf>

We hope that the adjustments we are making will further improve the remote learning experience for our pupils.

In the next two weeks, we will be inviting parents and pupils to complete a feedback survey to let us know how they are finding remote learning so please look out for this.

In the meantime, please continue to keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely,



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