

7 May 2020

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Dear Parent / Carer

Thank you for your immense effort in embracing home learning over the last few weeks. We know that this has brought positives for some and challenges for others. We are very grateful for all you are doing to help your children to continue their learning.

Last week we asked for feedback on our provision and we have now had the opportunity to review your responses. Thank you for the many positive comments; we have also taken on board the range of suggestions and we are working to adapt our provision where possible in response to these. This week we have also conducted a survey with our students. This has supported us to gain a better understanding of their experience of learning at home and the results are also enabling us to continue to review how best we meet their needs.

Below are some points of clarification which we hope will address some of the questions and key suggestions identified. In addition, we have attached again our Frequently Asked Questions document which will provide you with the steps to address some of the common difficulties. I also would like to confirm that there is no expectation for students to be working tomorrow as it is the national May bank holiday.

Some families requested us to share again our overview of how is work set for their child.

Work is primarily set through online systems to reduce the need for access to paper documents and to allow ongoing updates to be shared across the school community.

There are 3 main platforms used for Home Learning:

1. **SharePoint** is our school system which can be accessed once you log into Office 365. This be accessed through this link <https://wolfreton.sharepoint.com/sites/WS-HomeLearning>

In SharePoint you find a folder for each year group, a weekly learning grid and a series of subject folders which contain the work set each week. Students need to look in the folder relating to the current week e.g 'week commencing 27 April 20'. Here they will find the resources needed for that subject.

Some families requested that work was left on SharePoint longer

Moving forward, work will remain on SharePoint from previous weeks rather than being removed as this was requested in the survey.

2. **Maths Online** learning is set either through Hegarty Maths (Years 7 and 8) or Maths Watch (Years 9 – 11). Students are familiar with these systems as they were already in use for homework. Teachers assign tasks to their classes so your child will be able to follow links and complete the assigned work.

3. **SAM Learning** is an online platform that all students can access. Teachers can assign tasks, but you can also access free choice work on the website. All students have their login on a sticker in their school planner.

Each week, students receive a copy of the Learning Grid (a summary of the tasks set for that week) for their year group by email; this grid is also available in the year group folder.

Some families requested that the learning grids are also emailed to parents and we will aim to send these in advance of Monday morning.

This grid specifies how much time should be spent on each task. This is approximate and will vary a little between students. Please use your judgement if a task is taking too long and encourage your child to move on if this is appropriate. There will be no punishment for incomplete work and we simply want students to endeavour to do their best with the tasks provided.

Some families requested further information about how work is marked, saved and stored

At Wolfreton, we have always given feedback in a range of ways to suit different types of tasks. To that end we have a blended approach at this time too, with some work automatically marked (e.g. on SAM Learning), support to self-mark some work, and the opportunity to receive feedback from individual teachers. Students can save their work and share it to their teachers using the subject email system to receive feedback and guidance to continue their learning. We will not insist on collecting all work when we return to school, but rather encourage all to store this in their books / folders and work with youngsters to assess what they have retained or need to revisit.

Each student has a OneDrive area. This is a cloud-based storage facility which is part of the Office 365 package. When working electronically, it is best to save documents to the OneDrive area as this will allow you to edit the document and when this is saved. It can then be sent to teachers through our subject mailboxes and staff will give feedback. If work is completed on paper, you may also like to take a photo and send this in. There is no requirement to print documents at home unless you wish to do so.

We're pleased to receive images of work that the students are proud of and we will share these via Twitter. You do not need to send every task and teachers will state if this is a requirement for a particular task.

The subject email addresses are:

Artandphotography@wolfreton.co.uk
ScienceDepartment@wolfreton.co.uk
Music@wolfreton.co.uk
DramaDepartment@wolfreton.co.uk
Computing@wolfreton.co.uk
Technology@wolfreton.co.uk
EnglishDepartment@wolfreton.co.uk
MFL@wolfreton.co.uk
PE@wolfreton.co.uk
GeographyDepartment@wolfreton.co.uk
HealthandSocial@wolfreton.co.uk
History@wolfreton.co.uk
MathsDepartment@wolfreton.co.uk
RE@wolfreton.co.uk
BusinessandTravel@wolfreton.co.uk
CareersDepartment@wolfreton.co.uk

These addresses have been shared with students but in response to your feedback we are sharing these with parents too.

If your child has worked on paper printouts, you can store the work in a ring binder and having it ready for revising topics on our return to school.

Some families have asked where they can get help for home learning.

Many of you have already been in touch via our homelearning@wolfreton.co.uk mailbox. This is checked frequently and we are addressing all requests submitted. This offers support for technical issues and general questions.

If you have a subject specific question about the work set, please do use the subject email addresses above.

Some families have asked for an alternative approach to resources.

For young people who are unable to work electronically or online, we are providing paper packs. These can be requested by emailing homelearning@wolfreton.co.uk.

Once a pack is prepared, the team will notify you and you will be able to come and collect this from school. These packs are produced weekly and as far as possible, they mirror the work set online.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your feedback. We continue to update our COVID-19 micro-site on the school website to support an overview of the range of information, guidance and support we have available. We know we will not have addressed all feedback here, that certainly doesn't mean we aren't looking at other aspects, we have just selected the most common themes for this letter. We will continue to review the provision and respond to feedback throughout this period of lockdown.

As we move into the Bank Holiday weekend, can I take this opportunity to send our continued best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Appleyard
Deputy Headteacher