

Orchard Manor School
John Nash Drive
Dawlish
Devon EX7 9SF



7th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hardly need to tell you that the first lockdown was very long. The vast majority of our students were superb and engaged with the school in a pastoral way, some were successful at working well at home. We know that this was largely down to the support of families who endeavour to make sure that pupils are supported at home to access their learning.

We know that this Lockdown is rather different. There is an expectation, rightly, that schools provide between 3-5 hours of on line learning. For some of our pupils at home, online learning requires a great deal of support. We understand this and appreciate this greatly, and we hope that we have put together a comprehensive package of remote learning that your child will be able to engage with.

Hopefully, this period of remote learning will be brief, but it is vital that our young people get into extremely good habits. We ask, thus, that you read the details of how the remote learning will work and reinforce the need to engage. It was very clear during lockdown 1, that students who did best, followed certain routines. These were often as simple as setting an alarm, sticking to the school day and removing the phone from the room they were working in....

You will know your young person's habits best, and we would be grateful if you could have this potentially tricky conversation to agree effective routines.

NEXT WEEK: 11/01/21

From Monday all pupils will be invited in for two days to work with their class team. Pupils will be following a different timetable than before, and we will share this with students. However, they will access a broad and balanced curriculum focusing on core subjects and including other areas such as PE, forest school, arts etc. Teachers may use this time to pre-teach and prepare pupils for activities and learning to follow in the days that pupils are learning at home. We strongly encourage all pupils to attend on their days as understandably live on line sessions may be more limited on these days.

Keyworker families and the most vulnerable pupils will continue to access school places. These are agreed on a case by case basis.

Students in Y11 and Post 16 will be offered places for the majority of the week.

- In the first instance, look at the advice and guidance on the website.
 - If, after looking there, you still have issues, then please contact your class tutor who will try to help you.
4. Subject teachers will explain on 'Teams' how they are going to set work. This will be in a variety of formats and will largely be dependent on the nature of the work. The students may experience:
- Live lessons at the time of their scheduled lessons. Students are strongly advised to attend these sessions.
 - A talked through PowerPoint sent through 'Teams'.
 - Work set on 'Teams' with clear indications of expectations for each lesson. Whatever method teachers choose to use, they will be online to answer questions, to teach or 'touch base'. Teachers will contact your student via 'Teams' to advise when these live sessions will be.

All teachers will endeavour to set work for that day by 9.15 a.m. each day, although those with lessons scheduled for the afternoon, may put these lessons on 'Teams' later than this.

Therapies will continue to be offered. The SALT team will create and send home resources and make appointments with pupils either in school or via TEAMS. Our school counsellor will make contact with students as appropriate.

It goes without saying that there will be teething problems - this is new to us too. Even with perfect Wi-Fi and technology, remote learning is very different to classroom learning where there may be high level of adult support. In classrooms, staff are skilled at quickly adapting and modifying learning when a barrier is discovered. It is even more challenging to support all pupils when some are in class and others are on screen. We ask for your patience but if there are difficulties or you are concerned about the work or your young person, then please do take the following action:

- Contact tutors or individual subject teachers using email. If you are not sure who this is then please ask tutors to forward.
- If you remain concerned, then please contact a senior leader.

ACCESS TO DEVICES AND DATA:

Data:

As a school we can request an increase to mobile data for people who do not have fixed broadband at home and cannot afford additional data for their devices. If this is the case for your child and access to data is through the following networks:

- Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile and Sky Mobile.

For each request, we need to know:

- The name of the account holder
- The mobile phone number
- The mobile network used

If you do not have any access to data please let us know as we have limited access to some dongles that we can send out to enable data access.

Please email your requests to riving@orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk

Devices:

Your child's class teacher/ tutor will check with you if you have access to a device to use at home if they haven't already. Please continue to liaise with your child's teacher/tutor regarding access.

If your child is taking a device or other learning resources (such as textbooks) home, please make sure that they bring their device and learning resources back in whenever they are in school. Thank you for your support with this matter.

KEEPING SAFE ONLINE:



With pupils being online even more than ever you may want to visit our school website about how you can help to keep your child safe online. Here is the link:

<https://www.orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Keeping+Your+Child+Safe+Online&pid=233>

FREE SCHOOL MEALS:

We have an up-to-date list of pupils who are entitled to free school meals. Once we have been informed about how to access a system to send out vouchers, we will start sending them out for the days your child is not attending school.

If you're not sure if you're entitled and want to check please look on our website. Here is the link to the page:

<https://www.orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Meals&pid=57>

If you require urgent support, please contact the school.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Rose'.

Mark Rose
Executive Principal