

Term: Spring | Issue 5 | Date: January 2021

Message for Online Learners

Before long, the academy will be open and we will be back to usual business. It cannot be stressed enough that until we reach that point, we still have very high expectations of every one of our pupils.

We carefully monitor and track the engagement, quality of work and conduct of all pupils online.

We have been unbelievably impressed with the maturity and self-discipline of the majority of pupils however, it is vital that all pupils in the academy see the importance of accessing work online and investing in their return to school.

If for any reason work is not being accessed, we will be contacting to offer support and guidance. We cannot afford for this time to be wasted. Every day counts. Thank you parents for your support.



Poem (SAS Lesson)

COVID-19 has altered our lives. but one day it'll stop and take us by surprise. It has taught a lesson, which is to be strong, even when everything is difficult, or if something is wrong. We might think that it will never end, but that is just not true, as one day it will get better for me and better for you. Positivity will be our key to success, and being determined will cover the rest. COVID-19 has not been the lucky charm. but the main part of getting through it is to just be calm. - Ivana Golic, Year 7

Remember to follow us on Twitter



Remote Learning and Small School Bulletins

Secondary:

On Wednesday 6th January we organised a successful launch of the online education programme. It ensured that each student would be receiving the same education regardless of whether they were at home or at school, with 5 lessons each daily. The teaching staff are consistently delivering high quality lessons from their homes, whilst



some have been in school when required. This leads me to our small school which has provided a safe, caring and active learning environment for those children whose parents are key workers.

The first couple of days were interesting to say the least! There were of course some technical difficulties but we persevered and we are all now IT professionals (some more capable than others) some children re-learning how to use the chat bar on TEAMS appropriately, but generally everybody pulling together as a unified team to create a smooth transition to the new way of remote learning.

Our KS3 & KS4 Small School is a fantastic provision and emphasises the Tudor Values on a daily basis. Small School has, and will continue to be, something incredibly positive for



those attending. Our students are acutely aware that they are virtually and physically around people who truly care about their wellbeing (Tutor Time has started). It has been a privilege to see the students engaging in lessons and learning, it has also been an absolute joy to see them laughing and smiling.

Online Learning and Small School Bulletins

Students are happy to attend on-site learning. They are always excited to see their friends and have some social interaction, whilst maintaining social distancing and Covid protocols at all times. They have taken to the new protocols wholeheartedly and with great maturity. This ensures the environment is safe to work in.

Primary:

The beginning of term has certainly been an unusual one! Lessons have moved onto Microsoft Teams for most children and we are so proud of the way that they have adapted to learning in their virtual classrooms. Children in Reception to Year 6 meet online three times a day for English, maths and story time. They have quickly become experts at muting and unmuting themselves, submitting work and using



the chat function to ask questions. Parents have also been a welcome addition to our 'classrooms' during this time – a massive thank you for all your contributions and suggestions. We know that helping children to learn from home in this way is not easy and we are so impressed with the way in which our families have risen to this challenge.

Our Nursery and Early Start children have also been busy, posting work on Class Dojo and joining Mrs Powers on Teams for songs and story time.

We also have a small number of children in school. They are following the same curriculum as our virtual school and are also working hard. They enjoy seeing their classmates virtually when they are able to join together.

Please remember to join us daily at 6.00pm for Samworth Stories.



Student Comments about Online Learning

"School is doing really well compared to other schools; I know it is really hard but the teachers are trying their best to give us normal lessons and we really appreciate it."

> "Teachers are really understanding about everything from WiFi issues to difficulties in lessons."

"I'm so lucky to be at TGSA and accessing all this remote learning."

> "Es interesante." "It's interesting."

"I find my online lessons efficient as it takes less time to get from lesson to lesson."

"I wish we could stay more in this lesson, it's very fun." "I like that I can work in my own comfort."

"It sets a good routine for me and I'm still learning."

> "It improves my independent learning skills as you have to take responsibility for attending lessons and completing work."

"I had siblings of a year 7 student join in with my lesson last week because they liked the look of the lesson and then really enjoyed it. Asking me to see their work at the end."

"Music is my favourite lesson, it was awesome!"

"I found the lesson quite like a normal lesson...Everyone was just as engaged as normal...I feel like I am learning the same as I would in school...A great lesson, overall. Thank you."

"Me gustan mucho tus lecciones and adios."

"I really like your lessons."

FAQs

Q – What do I do if my child doesn't have any lesson invites?

A – Please contact the school in the first instance so we can inform the teacher. All invites should be in place at least 24 hours before so please check ahead and advise as soon as you are aware that your child does not have any invites. This way additional invites can be sent, in plenty of time, so that students do not miss out on any of their learning. Students may also contact the teacher directly through teams to advise they have no invite or ask a friend, who is in the lesson, to let the teacher know so that an invitation can be extended to them.

Q - Are PE lessons going ahead virtually?

A – Yes all lessons are being taught virtually. PE is a great way to de-stress and improve your mental and physical health.

Q - What time do lessons start?

A - Your child needs to be logged on and ready to learn by 8.55am Monday, Wednesday and Friday for Tutor Time. Then on Tuesday and Thursdays lessons will start at 9.15am sharp. Please ensure they are on time to avoid missing an attendance mark and a call from the office.

Q – What do I do if my internet isn't working?

A – Please call the school and let us know so that we can advise the teacher that your child will be absent from the lesson. Please also call your internet provider and ask them for assistance; as you are home schooling, many providers are offering extra support.

Q – My child doesn't feel very well and is not up for school today.

A – Please call the school and report the absence as usual, this will then alert teachers not to expect them in class.

Q - I am waiting on a school laptop

A – We have been inundated with laptop requests and are getting these done as quickly as possible. As soon as your laptop is ready, we will be in touch to let you know to collect. Once it is ready we will need an adult to collect it as there is loan paperwork which needs to be read and signed for before we are able to let the laptop leave the school premises.

Q – My child has forgotten their log in details.

A - Please call or email the school at <u>useraccounts@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk</u> and we will be able to get these to you.

Q - Free School Meals vouchers - when will these be sent out?

A - If your child is entitled to a Free School Meal then you should have received a text message by now explaining that you will shortly receive an email from EdenRed, similar to those over Christmas, with the link to request your voucher. If you have not received your EdenRed email by the Tuesday next week then please let the school know and we can chase this from the Local Authority. If you have a new email address please contact us with the new details so this can be amended. Should you have any more queries then please do contact the school office on office@ samworth.tgacademy.org.uk or call us on 0116 278 0232.