



Sunday, 29th March 2026

Dear Parents,

RE: Secondary Online Learning Update – Revised Structure from Tuesday

Over the past week we have gathered feedback from pupils, parents and staff about our current online learning arrangements in the Secondary School. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the surveys and share their views.

The purpose of gathering this feedback was to ensure that decisions about the next phase of online learning are informed by the experiences of the whole school community. The responses from pupils, parents and staff have provided valuable insight and have directly shaped the adjustments we are now making to the structure of the school day.

Several themes emerged clearly across the surveys.

- Pupils told us that they value clear teacher explanation and the opportunity to interact with their teachers during lessons. At the same time, many pupils reported that long periods of continuous screen time make it harder to maintain concentration and engagement. Pupils consistently told us that lessons work best when teachers introduce and explain the learning clearly and then allow time within the lesson for pupils to complete work independently before returning to feedback and discussion.
- Teachers shared similar insights. Staff explained that effective online lessons work best when there is a balance between teacher explanation, questioning and independent work so that pupils remain focused and actively engaged in learning.
- Parent responses also highlighted some very clear priorities. Families strongly value a clear structure to the school day, visible teaching from subject teachers and the continuation of the full curriculum across all subjects. Parents told us that routine and regular interaction with teachers are extremely important in helping pupils remain motivated and confident while learning from home.

The parent survey also asked specifically about preferred start times for the school day during online learning. The most common response from parents was a **9:00am start**, which received significantly more responses than earlier start times. This indicates that families recognise that learning from home operates slightly differently from learning in school and that a slightly later start allows pupils to begin the day ready to engage fully with lessons.

Taking all of this feedback together, the next phase of online learning aims to maintain the **structure of the normal school day** while adjusting the rhythm of lessons so that learning works effectively in an online environment.



From Tuesday, pupils will return to their normal class timetable, learning once again with the teachers they know in each subject. This helps restore the familiar structure of the school day and ensures that pupils continue to receive consistent teaching across the full curriculum.

The school day will begin at **9:00am** and will follow the timetable below.

Session	Time
Registration	09:00–09:15
Period 1	09:15–09:55
Period 2	10:00–10:40
Break	10:40–11:00
Period 3	11:00–11:40
Period 4	11:45–12:25
Break	12:25–12:45
Period 5	12:45–13:25
Period 6	13:30–14:10
Assessment and Independent Study	14:10–15:00

This structure maintains **six teaching periods each day**, ensuring that pupils continue to receive regular instruction across all subjects.

Within lessons, teachers will continue to balance explanation, discussion and independent work so that pupils remain actively engaged in learning. A key focus moving forward will be ensuring that pupils complete work during lessons and upload their work online, allowing teachers to check understanding and provide feedback.

This approach helps maintain academic rigour within the online environment and ensures that teachers are able to monitor progress and support pupils effectively.

The timetable also includes a structured **Assessment and Independent Study period at the end of the day**.

This time is an important part of the online learning model. It allows pupils to complete work from their lessons, upload assignments and respond to teacher feedback. Some tasks may be completed offline in order to reduce screen fatigue while still ensuring meaningful learning activity.

At the same time, this period allows teachers to review work submitted during the day, assess pupil understanding and provide feedback. Online learning requires additional time for reviewing digital submissions and preparing resources, and building this time into the timetable ensures that teaching and assessment remain organised and effective.

In some cases this final session may also be used for structured online assessments or targeted support sessions, particularly with examination year groups.



We are very aware of the particular anxieties that exam year pupils may be experiencing at this time. The school is continuing to work closely with examination boards to ensure that pupils are supported in meeting the expectations of their external assessments. A more detailed assessment and support plan for Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 will be shared shortly.

Alongside this, a whole-school assessment plan for all year groups in Secondary is currently being finalised and will be communicated during the coming week. This will outline how structured assessments and feedback will continue across subjects so that pupils' progress can be monitored carefully during this period of online learning.

Overall, this revised structure allows the school to maintain a full academic timetable, regular interaction with teachers and a clear daily routine, while also responding directly to the feedback we received about engagement, screen fatigue and the importance of assessment and feedback.

We will continue to monitor how the revised structure is working during the first week of implementation and will conduct a formal review on **Thursday 9 April** to ensure that the timetable continues to support both pupil engagement and effective teaching.

This revised structure reflects our commitment to maintaining a high standard of teaching and learning throughout this period. While the format of the school day has adapted to the realities of online learning, our expectations for pupil engagement, completion of work and academic progress remain unchanged. By ensuring that pupils continue to learn with their subject teachers, follow a clear timetable and receive regular assessment and feedback, we aim to maintain both the quality and the continuity of their education. We are grateful for the continued support of our families and remain committed to working closely with you to ensure that every pupil continues to make strong progress during this time.

Best wishes,

Samantha Reynolds
Head of Secondary