



Smithdon High School
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Dear Parents

We hope this letter finds you safe and well. We wanted to update you on the academic provision and support from Smithdon.

Feedback is showing us, as is to be expected, that there is a range of levels of engagement and expectation among students and parents. At the start of lockdown we created a timetable for all students (attached below for your information) that we have continued to use for setting work, based on about 3 hours of work a day. We can see that for many children this has worked well. However, after 12 weeks of working this way, we recognise that both children and parents are starting to have different views about how it is working for them. Every household is in a very different and ever-changing situation and we want to support our children and their families in the best way we can.

We will continue to work on the same timetable framework as we have from the beginning; however you might see changes in the type of work being set, as well as extra, optional activities for students to do. Up to this point we have largely focused on embedding knowledge that has previously been taught, alongside practising key skills. We will now begin to introduce some new material. There may also be a change in the type of feedback children will be receiving to support with this.

For those children, who are finding engagement difficult or who have got behind with the work, I would strongly encourage you to contact your child's form tutor who can support them with a plan of action to get back on track.

For those of you who feel that your child would benefit from more work I would encourage you to contact your child's subject teacher(s) or use additional resources such as the national academy <https://www.thenational.academy/>.

Some parents have queried the lack of use of resources such as live lessons: we have tried to ensure that the work we are setting has been accessible to all and to not put any of our children at a disadvantage. Over the last few weeks we have experimented with the use of live lessons and alternative methods of on-line teaching to deliver key content and we will continue to do this.

We will continue to listen to your feedback and the advice from the government to update and adjust our practices, whilst remaining considerate of the different situations of all of our children. To help us with this it is essential that parents and children keep in touch with us. Please encourage your child to use email and Show My Homework to keep in touch with their tutors and teachers. We also encourage parents to contact staff with any questions. If you are unsure who to contact please use the head@smithdonhigh.org.uk email which can then be directed to the appropriate staff member.

Thank you for your on-going support during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Robinson
Assistant Headteacher (KS3)

Mr M Knott
Assistant Headteacher (KS4)

