



Dear parent/carer

We recognise these are turbulent times. However, we remain committed to ensuring that we provide a quality learning experience for your son/daughter, whether they are at home or school. For the duration of the lockdown, every child should continue to follow their timetable as if they were in school.

In response to feedback from parents, from Monday 18th January, each lesson has been reduced to 45 minutes, to allow a break between lessons for your son/daughter to relax and leave the computer screen. They will follow their timetable and each lesson will begin at the same time but finish 15 minutes earlier.

The day will look like:

- 8.45 – 9.15 – Tutor time
- 9.15 - 10.00 – Period 1
- 10.15 -11.00 – Period 2
- 11.00 – 11.45 – Break
- 11.45 – 12.30 – Period 3
- 12.45 – 1.30 – Period 4
- 1.30 – 2.15 – Break 2
- 2.15 – 3.00 – Period 5

The teacher will plan a lesson for the 45 minutes. The teacher starts each lesson (unless they are absent – in this instance work is set on Show My Homework and/or on the Teams Channel for their class) on Teams, attendance is recorded, and the learning introduced.

As we recognise that it is not healthy for your child to remain in front of a computer for prolonged length of time, the pattern of the lessons varies. Also, the teaching of some skills and concepts require more independent practice, and so the length of the input from the teacher will vary. Some lessons the teacher may teach for 10 minutes, and the remaining 35 minutes your child will practice the skill or master the knowledge independently. However, in some lessons, the teacher may provide input for a larger section of the lesson and may remain on-line for the duration of 45 minutes to answer questions from the students. The structure of the lessons is explained in more detail in our remote learning policy:

<https://arkalexandra.org/teaching-learning/remote-learning>. All lessons are recorded so if your child cannot attend a class they can revisit the lesson by going onto their class channel on MS Teams.

Naturally, students learn at different paces, and some are ambitious to learn more. We would encourage your child to supplement their learning from their lessons. Resources we would recommend developing your child's learning are:

- The resources developed by Ark that specifically complement and inform the curriculum they are studying (<https://arkschools.sharepoint.com/sites/spark>).
- The Oak Academy lessons are created by teachers and are of a high quality (<https://classroom.thenational.academy>).
- The resources from the BBC which are developed by educationalist (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>).



A wide range of documentaries are available from the BBC on iPlayer, and relevant podcasts on the BBC sounds app.

Finally, encourage your child to continue reading and taking exercise. Both activities have immensely beneficial outcomes for your child's mental and physical health and have a positive impact on their academic progress. Books can be borrowed free electronically from your local library. Joe Wicks returns with his workouts on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, broadcasted live on his YouTube channel The Body Coach TV at 9 am.

If you have any queries or are struggling to engage your son/daughter don't hesitate to contact their Head of Year or Director of Progress. Subject-specific questions please may I encourage you to email their teacher or Head of Department.

Best wishes, Juliet Horton

Vice Principal
Ark Alexandra Academy