

8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Online/Home learning during Lockdown 3.0

You have now had a few days of having to return to home learning. We know it isn't easy and we know there will be glitches along the way, but I hope you will have noticed some significant improvements to what we were able to offer previously. This is because staff are now better equipped and experienced at providing home learning compared to that during the March lockdown.

I think it is important to be clear in saying that although the staff at King Harold will do their best to provide high quality home learning, learning online or at home, this will not be as effective as being in school surrounded by trained subject specialist teachers.

Students

Your teachers will be supplying you with at least 4 hours of work to do every day (5 if you are in Year 11). They will set these so that you can do them in the same order as their normal timetable. However, you might choose to work on certain subjects for longer periods and create your own timetable, that is also acceptable. In saying that, it is worth remembering that a growing number of lessons are now live. You should try to attend most of these, as they offer the best opportunity for you to interact with your teacher and clear up any misconceptions you might have.

Motivating yourself is harder at home than at school, and it is much easier to make excuses not to do the work. Therefore, you need to take more responsibility for your own self-motivation! Set an alarm to get you out of bed and stick to set hours of working. Set yourself targets and work hard to achieve them.

Parents and Carers

You have an important role to play in this. You must lead at home to ensure that your children are getting up and getting the work done. Please do not assume that because your child is sitting in front of a computer that they are always working. You are not expected to be home teachers as we know that is only something that a small number of you have been specifically trained to do. You can though stop your children from using social media or games or watching tv until they have produced a reasonable amount of work.

Supervising home learning does not mean standing over your child all day, it does though mean checking what has been done and discussing it with your child. You may need to praise good work or question why they have not been able to have done more in the time allotted. Ration their 'break time' and ensure that they stay focussed. Put a list of their subjects up on the wall and set them targets. Try and help them where you can, by showing an interest in what they are doing. Use older siblings where possible to help younger brothers and sisters.

All children, even the older ones need praise and support. Remember, working from home is hard for them as well as you. We know this isn't easy, this is not a situation that any of us wanted to be in. We know that parents care and so do their teachers. We have to work together to ensure that our young people keep up with their education as much as possible, so that when we come back into classrooms later this year, we are ready to quickly get back on track.

As all schools have moved to remote learning, we are aware that many families require support with IT equipment and access to the internet. Many internet providers have signed up to provide additional free data to support home learning. You are advised to contact your provider in the first instance to access this additional support. If you do not have a home broadband provision please email office@kha-tkat.org where the school will be able to apply on your behalf for this support.

If your child has a Playstation, Xbox or other games consoles they can also access Google Classroom through these by plugging in a wired keyboard and mouse and use the console's Internet Edge browser as you would on any other device. If you require support with a keyboard or mouse, please email office@kha-tkat.org with your request and we will assist as many families as we can.

King Harold is waiting for a limited number of devices to be delivered to support students with working from home. If you require support with this please email office@kha-tkat.org stating your child's name, year group, what equipment they already have access to, if this is shared with other family members and if you have internet access. We will priorities issuing the loan of equipment and may not be able to supply devices for all requests in the first instance but please be reassured we are working tirelessly to support the needs of every child.

If you require support with other resources like exercise books or paper please email office@kha-tkat.org where your request will be dealt with.

Yours faithfully



Steve Fisher
Executive Headteacher

