

# WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

**Remote Learning Provision**

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## Remote learning provision

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### Our Learning Package

Our distance learning package has been designed with the needs of families in mind; with routine and structure for those who crave it, whilst offering flexibility for those who need it.

Pupils can expect to have fresh distance learning activities provided every day with greater interactive content on Firefly as well as that all-important balance of activities that can be done away from a screen.

A student in Years 7-10 can expect to have 3 fresh tasks every day from different subjects as well as their daily Form Period, a daily wellbeing task and the PE challenges to complete, not to mention opportunities to stretch themselves with reading challenges, STEM challenges and more if they wish!

A student in Year 11-13 will have timetable arrangements that are bespoke to them. (*see Year group timetable*)

The timetable aspect is optional. We know that not all families have enough devices for everyone to be online at once. Some of our pupils are based overseas. We know that some of our students are early birds and will want to start the day at 8.30am - flexibility remains and is built in to allow students to learn at a time that suits them and their family. Build your day around the timetable, or build it around the needs of your family – do it your way.

### How will it work?

Teachers will be at the ready! Pupils will 'meet' with their Form Tutor at 9.30am every day to get ready for the day ahead, and then can access support from their teachers using the text chat function in Microsoft Teams during the online teacher 'slots'.

The wellbeing of pupils remains at the heart of the approach. When our young people are happy, achievement follows. The new interactive Firefly approach, a structured day for those who would like it, as well as Microsoft Teams, are intended to support students at each step of their day, as they need it. If your child begins to feel overwhelmed by distance learning, encourage them to contact their Form Tutor so that they can share their worries.

### What will their day look like?

<b>Year 8 – Sample Daily Timetable</b>	
Each unit of work to last 60-90 minutes including prep time.	
9:30	VIRTUAL FORM PERIOD (MS TEAMS)/DAILY CHECK IN (FIREFLY) Support from your Form Tutor
10:00 Lesson 1	<b>English</b>
Online subject specific Teacher(s)	
11:15-11:45	BREAK – away from a screen / blue sky
11:45 Lesson 2	<b>Chemistry</b>
Online subject specific Teacher(s)	
13:00-13:45	LUNCH – away from a screen / blue sky
13:45-14:00	Daily Well-being task - Firefly
14:00 Lesson 3	<b>Music</b>
Online subject specific Teacher(s)	
15:15-15:30	Consolidate the learning for the day and ask any questions to staff on Microsoft teams or Firefly
15:30-16:30	Physical activity challenges/Music & Performing Arts

**All year group timetables are available live on Firefly or as a download on the webpage (please note those on the webpage may be subject to change and for most up-to-date see Firefly).**



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### Pastoral Support

While much has changed in the recent weeks, we are determined to keep our students' wellbeing our number one priority.

We continue to look to improve and develop all aspects of our offering and provision during this time of remote education. Our pastoral care is central to this and, should a student feel they need more support, the structures put in place give every opportunity to express this need. Additionally, if there are any students struggling at any time they are encouraged to contact any member of staff for support, advice or guidance.

There are two daily activities that we require our students to participate in following the Easter break.

#### 1. Daily Form Period

Each Student is expected to take part in a virtual Form Period at 9:30am each day. This will take place via Microsoft Teams. Each Form Tutor will have set up a Team for their Form Group and a daily Form Period will be scheduled for each working day.

To access Teams, and thus the Form Period, students should login following the guidance provided via the link below:

<https://woodhousegrove.fireflycloud.net/it-related/remote-learning-at-wgs>

Our recommendation would be for students to download the Microsoft Teams App on to their mobile phone or device.


Once logged in, students should arrive at the dashboard showing any teams they have been added to. Their Form Tutor will have set up a Form Group Team ready for the Form Period on Monday. They will be able to access the Form Period each day by going to their calendar and clicking on the correct meeting where it invites them to join.

#### 1. Daily Check-In task

The second activity we require students to take part in is the daily check-in task – this is broadly the same as the task completed prior to the Easter break. Each student will receive this as a task via Firefly from their Form Tutor.

This task must be completed by 10am at the latest. Ideally this would be done prior to the Form Period so that the Form Tutor has an idea of how individual members of the group are feeling.

Please type your form group \*



How are you feeling today? \*

- Green - getting on fine
- Orange - coping okay
- Red - would like contact with a teacher

The purpose of this is so we can track students' wellbeing over the time we are away from school, pick up any patterns and put in place interventions or support as necessary for individual students.

This task is completed separately to the Form Period so that any students who may be struggling with an issue, but do not wish to voice this in the Form Period forum, have this different platform to let their Form Tutor know. Where a student registers that they wish to talk to a teacher, this will be followed up as soon as possible by the Form Tutor, with contact directly via email or Microsoft Teams, and outside the Form Period forum.

Should pupils fail to attend the Form Period, or fail to complete the wellbeing task, and we have not heard from them as to why, the school will contact you out of courtesy to check on their wellbeing.



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In addition to the two formalised activities there are a number of on-going initiatives to aid wellbeing and pastoral care for our students including, regular posts from the Chaplain, a daily Wellbeing Task on Firefly from Mrs Vernon, the PE challenges set by Mr King and on-going social media posts. I hope you have found these of benefit during the Easter break.

Students must also feel they are able to contact Form Tutors, Heads of Year or other teachers as they feel the need. This can be facilitated through Microsoft Teams or by sending an email. Pupils can also access the Support Alphabet on Firefly.

We hope that our student community will engage fully with the two strategies outlined above to ensure we can provide a high level of pastoral care for each individual.



## Pupil IT User Agreement & Acceptable Online Behaviour

As we move to this increased use of technology during this period of remote learning, it is important that ALL students refresh their memories of our IT User Guide which can be found via the link below. While this document was written for 'normal' school activity, it contains clear guidance regarding our expectations of a student's conduct while using technology.

<https://woodhousegrove.fireflycloud.net/it-related/pupil-user-guide-1>

Students must ensure they are not behaving in a way that contravenes the guidance. There are examples of inappropriate behaviour within the document. A few examples of commitments we expect from all pupils are

- To ensure all communication with teachers or others on school IT systems is responsible and sensible
- Not to screenshot, photograph, record or share any teaching video or learning resource
- To continue to follow the Pupil IT User Agreement
- To only use school based IT systems for school purposes
- When participating in Form Periods or other 'live' activities I will be dressed suitably and ensure any backgrounds are neutral and appropriate
- To behave in an appropriate manner following guidance from the Form Tutor or teacher on the structure and running of the meeting or lesson

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### FAQs

#### **What if my child is having technical difficulties with Firefly or Microsoft Teams?**

If they can't get the answers they need on the Firefly 'help pages', Dr Allday and Mr Thompson are on hand to help. Just drop them an email!

[Allday.JA@woodhousegrove.co.uk](mailto:Allday.JA@woodhousegrove.co.uk) [Thompson.Mr@woodhousegrove.co.uk](mailto:Thompson.Mr@woodhousegrove.co.uk)

#### **What if my child is struggling?**

It is important that we work together to teach our young people how to manage remote learning. It is very easy for the student to bother their parents, but the school is offering deep layers of support and the students need to be encouraged to explore that support fully, through the resources on Firefly, through their teachers, through their tutor, through learning support (if relevant) and through their peer group ... using you, their parents, should be a last resort!

#### **What if my child is getting too little work?**

Academic departments have been working on developing tasks that provide a 'stretching' aspect for those who need it. If you find your child needs more, please just let the Head of Year know and we can provide greater challenge if it is needed.

#### **What if I am worried about my child and their mental health?**

If you have concerns about your child's mental health then there are a number of options available. Please feel free to contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year in the first instance. They may be able to assist you, or inform other members of the Pastoral Team who will be able to offer support. You can also access support via the Support Alphabet on Firefly. This resource has lots of suggestions and vetted websites where you can seek guidance on a whole range of issues.

#### **Why aren't you just live teaching my child's normal timetable?**

There are a multitude of reasons.

Not least that, as a school, we believe in prioritising the wellbeing of our young people; working 8.30am until 4pm in front of a screen would not be in their best interests. Remote learning by its very nature is more intense and students can work more rapidly through topics than in a classroom setting. We believe that striking the right balance between screen time, physical activity, creative and musical pursuits, as well as time spent with family is crucially important for the wellbeing of our young people at this time. Our remote learning provision is built with this premise at its core.

We are also not 'live teaching' because we recognise that not all families can support learning to a fixed school routine e.g. there are home-working needs for parents and the needs of younger siblings to consider.

Different students manage concentration to differing levels, especially with limited social interaction.

Another thing that we are acutely aware of, which has been further highlighted in parental feedback, is that not all our families have a suitable learning device for every member of the household which would make 'live' teaching inaccessible for a number of individuals within our community.

We are also a boarding school which means that our school community is made up of students who live across at least 8 different time zones.

It has also become clear, as we feared, that some organisations, including schools, have found themselves seriously exposed from a Safeguarding point of view, having dived into new technologies very quickly and without considering the consequences. The welfare of our students continues to be our main priority and as a result, we believe a more measured, carefully tested approach will yield safer, more sustainable results for all in the longer term.

#### **What if my child is ill?**

Please report this in the normal way by emailing [wgsadminoffice@woodhousegrove.co.uk](mailto:wgsadminoffice@woodhousegrove.co.uk)

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