

29th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

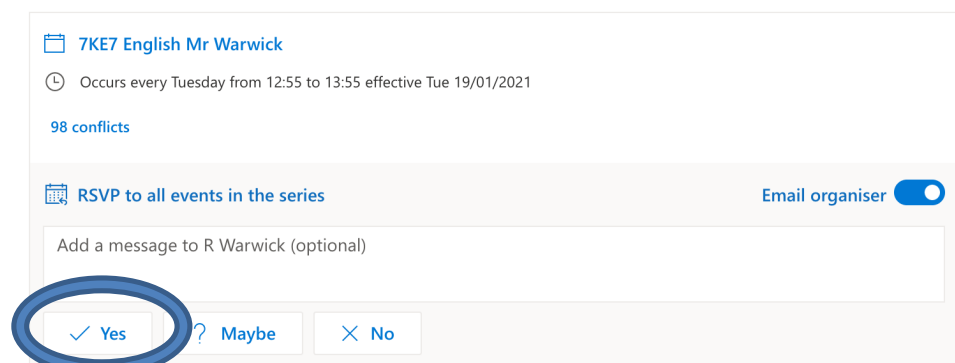
Re: Remote Learning and Progress Task - Update

We hope you and your family are all well. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in helping your son access and engage with remote and live learning. We know it has been a steep learning curve for many people and appreciate your commitment to making this means of learning work for all involved.

Remote Learning:

As government guidance states, good remote learning is a combination of independent study, pre-recorded and live lessons. We are happy to now share our plans for the next phase of remote learning. Students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will have an increased number of live lessons from Monday 1st February. Years 7 to 9 will have between 8 and 10 live lessons per week, year 10 will have approximately 12 live lessons each week. These lessons will take place on Microsoft Teams as before. It is vital that students log in to their school email address and accept the invitations their teachers will send when they set up the lessons. As soon as you click 'Yes' the lesson will appear in their MS Teams calendar, providing you with your son's personal timetable for the upcoming live lessons. If they do not accept these invitations, then the calendar will remain blank and your son may miss his live lessons.

The email invitation will look like this:



Click on Yes

Music, Art and Drama will provide pre-recorded lessons for years 7,8 and 9. These lessons should be accessed as per your son's timetable. Notification of these lessons will be posted on Satchel:One as normal. To further support these subject areas, students will have a chance to attend a drop-in session with their music, drama or art teacher. This is an optional session for students to ask any questions about the work they have been set. Students do not need to attend the drop-in session if they are successfully accessing their work in these subjects.

It is important to note that some lesson times will change from the times students may have had last week. This is so that teachers can accommodate more live lessons for all year groups. So, it will be vital that you check your son's email account for invitations.

Attendance to all live lessons is compulsory. Registers will be taken and parents will be contacted via text message if students fail to attend. If you are aware of a reason as to why your son could not attend a live lesson please email the following account WDS-Attendance@westderbyschool.co.uk with your child's name, form and lesson missed.

Our pastoral team are monitoring attendance on a regular basis and will continue to support all families to ensure students continue to access their education from home. Students should also complete work for remaining non-live lessons as before, accessing Satchel:One, completing the work set and uploading for teachers to monitor progress. Should your son have any issues with technology, forgotten passwords or submission of work on Satchel:One please contact us at hwsupport@westderbyschool.co.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Teachers will nominate students who have made fabulous contributions to live lessons and submitted work of an excellent quality. They will receive a well-deserved reward in the post!
As always, our remote learning provision is constantly reviewed, we will continue to keep you updated.

Progress task weeks:

In the week beginning 8th February all students will complete their significant progress tasks.

1. These will help staff to monitor the knowledge and skills acquired over the course of remote learning and identify any gaps in understanding.
2. The tasks are similar to those that students regularly experience in school. Now that they will be completed remotely they may take the form of a formal quiz, piece of writing, assignment, PowerPoint presentation.
3. They will be set on MS Teams, marked by their teacher and in-depth feedback will be provided.
4. These significant progress tasks will take place on a regular basis. They may take place during a live lesson or be set as an independent assignment.
5. Teachers will highlight to students when and how the progress task will take place. They will also guide students through how to access and complete these in their live lesson.

It is essential that parents continue to encourage their child to attend all live lessons and submit all other daily tasks which will build towards their performance in their routine progress tasks. These progress tasks are important because they will be used to report on student progress. Students studying GCSE courses are currently building their evidence base that may need to be used to award GCSE grades later this year, progress tasks may be used to inform these final grades.

Once again, on behalf of everyone at West Derby School, thank you for your ongoing support and your unwavering commitment to the education of your child. These are very tough times and we are very proud of how our school community has risen to the challenges we have faced.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S. Wilkinson
Deputy Headteacher