

27 April 2020

Dear Learner / Parent / Carer

LDE UTC Newsletter

As we enter the fourth week of the college's closure, we hope you have had a good week and not found the home schooling too daunting as we return to a very different looking and feeling Summer Term.

There have been no new announcements by the Government relating to education this week however, there has been an acknowledgement that the pressures of remote learning are very challenging. In response to this they have endorsed an on-line resource from the [Oakland Academy](#) that sits alongside [BBC Bitesize](#) as a means of offering bespoke lessons to various age groups across a full range of subjects. Our staff continue to set high quality work for home learning, and we have been pleased with the response from many of our learners.

Mental health and wellbeing has become even more important over the last few weeks and one of the most important ways to keep mentally healthy is to have routine and structure, and to maintain a healthy sleep pattern.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) have produced a series of checklists to help parents and children manage their routines.

Supporting home learning routines: Planning the day

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19 Resources/Resources for parents/Supporting home learning routines - Planning the day.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19%20Resources/Resources%20for%20parents/Supporting%20home%20learning%20routines%20-%20Planning%20the%20day.pdf)

All the EEF materials to support home learning can be found here:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources#nav-covid-19-resources>

Digital safety is also of great importance and we have attached here a digital safety and wellbeing kit for parents and a safety guide for learners

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/coronavirus/digital-safety-and-wellbeing-kit/>

As we adjust to a new way of working, we would like to remind learners / parents of the following, mindful that working and learning from home will be unique to every home and family.

- Every day your son/daughter should look at their timetable and aim to complete the work for those lessons. This is the best way to stay on top of their learning and manage workload and deadlines. All work will be set on the Monday of that week so that learners can organise their own time.
- Work will continue to be set with clear deadlines via 'Show My Homework'. If your son/daughter is struggling to return the work within the deadline they should email their teacher directly to let them know.
- For each lesson teachers will aim to set work that should take approximately 50 minutes to complete. We understand that some children will work more quickly than others and therefore some children will finish all the work whilst others may not.
- When 50 minutes has been spent focused on the work set the lesson is over and your son/daughter should take a short break. The most important thing is that your son / daughter maximises their effort and does their best in the time invested.
- Individual teachers will indicate to your child where they should complete the work i.e. in their exercise book via a return email/attachment. Please encourage your child to indicate to the teacher whether they found the work easy or more challenging and if they didn't get it completed how long they spent on the tasks. This will help teachers judge how much to set and how accessible the work was.
- Teachers will aim to format work in a way that minimises download demands and is accessible on a variety of devices.
- Teachers will offer feedback, this might be in the form of an answer sheet where work can be self-assessed, verbal feedback or individual feedback where possible. Attitude to Learning points will continue to be awarded and recorded on the college's database.
- If your son/daughter is finding the work difficult or does not understand please ask them to email their teacher who will try to respond as quickly as they can.
- Encourage your son/daughter to take regular breaks, to get some fresh air where possible and spend valuable time with family.
- Should your child receive additional support in the classroom at LDE UTC they are welcome to continue to access this via email and can ask for help and advice where needed.

Our Heads of Year will continue to make weekly telephone calls with some of our more vulnerable learners being contacted more regularly. Over the course of this week the focus will be on ensuring that learners, particularly in Years 9, 10 and 12 are accessing their learning. We are hoping to get a newsletter out to each individual year group over the course of the next few weeks and would like to remind learners to check their emails regularly as well as the college's digisector briefing <https://ldeutc.padlet.org/info/digisector>.

Kind regards,



Geoffrey Fowler
Principal, LDE UTC