

Please find below details and resources to help your child structure their day and minimise the disruption to their learning whilst the school is closed.

Why should we keep up a 'school-like' routine at home?

Keeping a daily routine, maintaining some form of exercise, and making time for reading all have significant benefits to mental health and well-being. We would strongly encourage you to set up and stick to a daily schedule, and where possible, work alongside your child. For example, if you are working from home then set up a desk where you can both work independently but together.

The following is meant to provide you with an idea of the amount of time we would advise your child to spend on various activities each day:

- Years 7 – 9:
 - Schoolwork set by your teachers – 5 x 30 minutes
 - Exercise / fresh air – one hour
 - Passion project (more information below) – one hour
 - Reading – half an hour
- Year 10:
 - Schoolwork set by your teachers – 5 x 45 minutes
 - Exercise / fresh air – one hour
 - Revision – one hour
 - Reading – half an hour
- Year 11:
 - Schoolwork set by your teachers or revision – 5 x 45 minutes
 - Exercise / fresh air – one hour
 - Revision – one hour
 - Reading – half an hour to one hour
- Year 12 – 13:
 - Schoolwork set by your teachers - one hour for every lesson you have
 - Exercise / fresh air – one hour
 - Revision – one hour
 - Reading – half an hour to one hour

How will work be set for my child when school closes?

Microsoft Teams – all students have been briefed on its use and a video of how to get started can be found at: <https://youtu.be/0RHMI5jIrrc>

Will my child be given feedback on their work?

It is unrealistic for all students to receive individual feedback on all work they complete. Staff will prioritise the students in Years 11 to 13.

Where possible, during normal school hours staff will be available to communicate with students through school email accounts.

What if school is closed for a long period of time?

We firmly believe it is important that all students are supported and encouraged to keep up their studies but appreciate that this will become increasingly challenging the longer school is closed. The best way to maintain it in the medium to long term is to introduce a daily schedule from day one so that this becomes your family's 'new normal'.

We are continually reviewing the situation and will provide updates for parents and students as and when the guidance we are being given by the government changes.

My child was due to sit GCSE or A-Level exams this summer, what is going to happen?

At present there is no guidance about how grades will be decided. Our advice and expectation is that all students in Years 11 and 13 will continue studying with the work provided for two main reasons. Firstly it is likely that teacher assessment and prediction will form at least part of the final grade. This will include what the students study and is assessed prior to the original dates of their exams, i.e. what they do over the next 7 weeks. Secondly, continuing to study puts them in a stronger position for when school restarts or when they start university. Being 'next stage ready' will deteriorate more the longer they are out of the habit of studying.

Passion Project Ideas – Years 7-9

All children have different interests and it is important to harness these, particularly if they are out of school for an extended period. Talk to them and encourage them to find something they are passionate about and then set them up to undertake an ongoing project. It is really important that they get stuck into something that they love. We would encourage them to send them to their Form Tutor and Head of Year so that we can reward them for their efforts.

Below are a few ideas to get you going:

- A personal reading diary
- A daily photo record
- Start a blog
- Write a collection of short stories
- It could be a factual project report based on collecting and examining examples of anything they are interested in – historical figures, news stories, objects in space, world landmarks, exotic animals, musicians, sports people, etc.

What other resources are available to support my child's learning?

Online Learning Resources

Khan Academy

 <https://www.khanacademy.org>

Especially good for maths and computing for all ages but other subjects at Secondary level. Note this uses the U.S. grade system but it is mostly common material.

BBC Bitesize

 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

This site is old and no longer updated and yet there is so much still available, from language learning to BBC Bitesize for revision. No TV licence required except for content on BBC iPlayer.

FutureLearn

 <https://www.futurelearn.com>

Free to access hundreds of courses, only pay to upgrade if you need a certificate in your name (own account from age 14+ but younger learners can use a parent account).

Seneca

 <https://www.senecalearning.com>

For those revising at GCSE or A level. Tons of free revision content. Paid access to higher level material.

OpenLearn

 <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/>

Free taster courses aimed at those considering Open University but everyone can access it. Adult level, but some, e.g. nature and environment courses, could well be of interest to young people.

Blockly

 <https://blockly.games>

Learn computer programming skills - fun and free.

Scratch

 <https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/>

Creative computer programming.

Ted Ed

 <https://ed.ted.com>

All sorts of engaging educational videos.

National Geographic Kids

 <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

Activities and quizzes for younger children.

Duolingo

 <https://www.duolingo.com>

Learn languages for free. Web or app.

Mystery Science

 <https://mysteryscience.com>

Free science lessons.

The Kids Should See This

 <https://thekidshouldseethis.com>

Wide range of cool educational videos.

Crash Course

 <https://thecrashcourse.com>

YouTube videos on many subjects.

Crest Awards

 <https://www.crestawards.org>

Science awards you can complete from home.

iDEA Awards

 <https://idea.org.uk>

Digital enterprise award scheme you can complete online.

Paw Print Badges

 <https://www.pawprintbadges.co.uk>

Free challenge packs and other downloads. Many activities can be completed indoors. Badges cost but are optional.

Tinkercad

 <https://www.tinkercad.com>

All kinds of making.

Prodigy Maths

✔ <https://www.prodigygame.com>

Is in U.S. grades, but good for UK Primary age and Key Stage 3.

British Council

✔ <https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find>

Resources for English language learning.

Oxford Owl for Home

✔ <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

Lots of free resources for Primary age and Year 7.

Big History Project

✔ <https://www.bighistoryproject.com/home>

Aimed at Secondary age. Multi-disciplinary activities.

Geography

✔ <https://world-geography-games.com/world.html>

Geography gaming!

Games

A few for younger siblings...

The Artful Parent

<https://www.facebook.com/artfulparent/>

Good, free art activities.

Red Ted Art

✔ <https://www.redtedart.com>

Easy arts and crafts for little ones

The Imagination Tree

✔ <https://theimaginationtree.com>

Creative art and craft activities for the very youngest.

Toy Theatre

✔ <https://toytheater.com/>

DK Find Out

✔ [https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/...](https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/)

Activities and quizzes.

Twinkl

✔ <https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

This is more for printouts, and usually at a fee, but they are offering a month of free access to parents in the event of school closures.

Other useful articles

Time management App to keep your focus

<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/technology/top-15-time-management-apps-and-tools.html>

Stuck at Home? These 12 Famous Museums Offer Virtual Tours You Can Take on Your Couch (Video)

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours?fbclid=IwAR1ctkAB-4F8FG8hsBqDV3b0h5wNcXFbFu7buxoriZqXY8DaJLOPVz9GwLg>