

Hello Year 7,

I hope you are all taking very good care of yourselves; social distancing, washing your hands and staying safe.

Firstly, I'd like to say well done to all of you for being extremely resilient in the first week. It was lovely to receive so many emails from you showing how keen you were to get on with work and how positive you were about the situation. I have also received a number of emails from your teachers with the work that you have sent to them and I am truly amazed!

This is a stressful time for all of us. We have emphasised to you that routines and structure to your day will help to keep you motivated, and mentally and physically healthy during this time. For our part we have provided you with home working timetables for you to follow and the work set on SMHW mirrors this.

HOWEVER, this is there as a guide only. You can change this to fit in with your family and you are free to do the work at different times of the day, in a different order- if your family is going out for a walk we don't want you to miss out because you feel you need to stick rigidly to the timetables suggested by us. All that we ask is that you spend the set amount of time on the timetable for each subject doing the work set on SMHW. If you work for the set amount of time and do not complete the task then please do not worry. If you get stuck and cannot carry on then email your teacher and ask for help and use the time to do something else like read a book or get active with our PE team's fitness video!

You may be wondering how we manage to teach the subject content in the allocated time, during lessons at school. However, please remember that we are trained and experienced to do this; we know how to plan activities and structure the lesson so that everybody has access to it. Distance learning is new to all of us so we are not expecting you to teach yourselves as we would teach you. We want you to try your best, but please don't use your weekends and/or evenings to catch up with work.

The most important thing to all of us at the moment is your well-being and we do not want to add to the stress that we are all experiencing as we adjust to this new normal.

All of your work should be completed in your exercise book or if you complete it on a Word document, please save it into a folder. You do not need to submit your work online as you do it. I don't want the pressure of submitting it, with possible technical glitches, to cause stress. I ask you to keep all of your work safe because when we return to school, your teachers will be checking it. Nevertheless, if you have created a lovely piece of work and would like to show your teacher, by all means, submit it online or email it to them. We want to share great work on our social media platforms so if you are proud of something then we want to be too. So please do share it! However, I don't want you to feel that submitting work is what you must do with every bit of work you complete.

All booklets needed should have been delivered to you. However, if they have not, you will be able to find them on SHHW.

Enjoy your Easter holidays, have a well-earned rest and relax. There will still be some work set on SMHW to complete if you want to, but this is optional during the holidays and there will not be as much as normal. Use this time to try something new, or get back into an old hobby that you loved – remember there are lots of links on our website to fun online activities to keep you busy.

It feels like a long time since I've been in the playground, at lunch time, and had a chat with you all – watching the boys playing football, the ball hitting me, dodging the seagulls, listening to some of the girls 'spilling the tea'. However, I'm sure you're going to make up for lost time when we get back. I can't wait to see you all again!

I wouldn't be me if I left this letter without telling you to stay safe on social media. You know what I mean! Remember, I find out everything. 😊

Best wishes to all of you.

Ms Ogundele
Year 7 Family Leader