

Good Morning Year 9,

I hope your second week of distance learning is going well and that you're adjusting to spending more time at home! I have had some lovely emails from parents and students explaining how many of you have settled in, and are approaching this time with a great deal of maturity. It was never going to be easy, but with what I have seen and heard so far, many of you are making the best of the time you have!

The vast majority of students have managed to log in to all of the learning platforms needed for your distance learning, but there are still a few of you who have not yet managed to log in to Show My Homework and Seneca. If you have any concerns or difficulties with this, please make sure you let us know, so that we can support you at this time. The last thing I would want would be anyone missing out over something that we could fix quite easily. Make sure to drop me an email if there is anything I can do to help. I will also put some links to the Seneca pages for the subjects that are using it at the bottom of the message.

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 teams fitness video!

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.

I'm hoping that a lot of you are using your time well outside of learning. Personally, I have probably made more contact with family in the last couple of weeks than in the months prior, and I have really appreciated it. While you might feel like you're developing a bit of cabin fever, it is a really good opportunity to spend time with family. Have some chats, watch movies, play board games; whatever takes your fancy! We often get quite caught up in running around and trying to do everything at once, so take some time to relax and spend it with those people who are most important to you.

Finally, next week is the beginning of the Easter break. It will be a very unusual one for a lot of us! As you will have seen from Ms Green's message on Monday, you will not be expected to follow your timetabled work over the fortnight, but there will still be "homework" set, if you need to keep busy. Myself and many of the staff will still be around and accessing emails (though less frequently), so if you need any support you can still let us know. Hopefully, with a bit less work to be getting on with you can relax a bit more, take some time for yourselves and be thankful for the positives that we can find at this time.

All the best,

Mr Falvey  
**Year 9 Family Leader**