



18th December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Yesterday the government announced plans for a staggered return to school in January, which means that your child will not be returning to school until **Monday 11th January**, however, while they are out of school, children will be able to access remote learning through their **Teams** classroom. Teachers have been adding work and assignments to this classroom throughout the year, so students should be used to this way of working and all work can be easily found in one place.

Teachers of students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be following their normal timetable; students should have a copy of their timetable in their student diary, however, it can also be seen on Go4Schools. Please feel free to get in touch from January 4th if you have any difficulties with this.

Work online

- **English, Maths and Science** will be completed using **Century online learning** – this is explained in more detail below – students will be assigned topics to work through by their teachers.
- **History, Geography and Spanish** teachers will upload **pre-recorded lessons** and resources onto **Teams** on the day of their usual lesson.
- **All other subjects** will set **assignments on Teams** for students to complete each week.

Home Learning on Teams

All students have been shown how to access Teams and have started to use it regularly to access work. Teams can be downloaded onto laptops, tablets, and phones. Students can also easily access their Teams by going into their school Outlook emails and clicking on the 9 dots in the top left-hand corner of the screen and selecting Teams. They will need to know their school login and password / school email login and password to get into Teams. Please contact school if your son/daughter has any problems with this.

This link is a student friendly explanation about how Teams works, if a refresher is needed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aO9LE6ZKnUM&feature=youtu.be>

Century for English, Maths and Science: <https://app.century.tech/login/>

Last term students were given logins for **Century**, which is an online learning platform which covers English, Maths and Science at all levels. Students have completed diagnostic tests which act as a baseline assessment for the topics they are currently working on; these tests will allow Century to direct students towards 'nuggets' of work which are pitched at the right level to be accessible to students, while still challenging them to improve. The nuggets include video clips and PowerPoints which cover the key facts, as well as knowledge checks and tests. As students work their way through different nuggets of work, they will be developing their knowledge and understanding of topics by covering areas they need more practice in, as well as revisiting areas of strength to keep it fresh in their memories. Low stakes quizzes will allow students to check their knowledge and understanding and allows Century to direct them to the next area they need to cover.

There is a Century tab in students' Teams room which gives them easy access to Century. Century is currently designed to be used on computers or tablets, rather than phones because the nuggets take about 10-15 minutes to complete and are best done without the distractions of various apps found on mobile phones. However, they are working on developing a more phone friendly version over the coming months. If your

son/daughter forgets their login or password, please feel free to get in touch with Jo Cooper (Deputy Headteacher) at jo.cooper@whptrust.org as she is our main contact for Century.

We appreciate that home learning does pose some challenges, not least of all, around access to the technology needed for home learning. Please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. We are also making arrangements for families with children who receive free school meals to receive a voucher in the new year.

Finally, there have been discussions in government about students and school staff being tested routinely in school in an effort to minimise issues such as asymptomatic transmission of Coronavirus; we are awaiting further information and want to reassure parents that we will not carry out testing on students without parental permission. We will send more information to parents and carers as soon as we have more information and plans are confirmed.

We remain committed to the families in our community and look forward to seeing your children back in school on **Monday 11th January**.

With kindest regards,

Heidi Gale
Headteacher
Bramcote College