



31st December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

Yesterday the government announced a change of plans for the staggered return to school in January, which now means that your child will not be returning to school until **Monday January 11th**, however, while they are out of school, students will be able to access remote learning through their **Teams** subject classrooms. Teachers have been adding work and assignments to these classrooms throughout the year, so all work can be easily found in one place. **Teaching will follow the attached timetable:**

Work online

- **English, Maths and Science** will be using **Century online learning** as well as setting tasks to work through on Teams for students to complete during their lesson times throughout the week. Teachers will be available during their timetabled lessons on the chat function on Teams to offer advice and help to anyone who needs it.
- **Options** teachers will upload work and resources onto **Teams** on the day of their usual lesson and will also be available during their timetabled lessons.

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 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>

Students will have a separate Teams 'room' for each subject they are studying; work will be set here for each subject and staff will be available using the 'chat' facility to offer help and guidance.

Century for English, Maths and Science:

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.

Century can be accessed through this link <https://app.century.tech/login/> 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 in January.

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 with the school 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 next week, either by post (all Aldi vouchers and some Sainsburys vouchers if requested) or by email (all Tesco vouchers).

GCSE and BTEC unit exams timetabled for January are still going ahead as planned by the exam boards, we are currently putting plans in place to run booster sessions that will support students in being prepared for these exams. We will let students and parents know about these sessions early next week.

Finally, the government are also keen for schools to put in place systems for students and school staff to be routinely tested for Coronavirus in school (in an effort to minimise issues such as asymptomatic transmission of Coronavirus); we are awaiting further details but are putting plans in place to get this up and running, however, I want to reassure parents that we will not carry out testing on students without parental permission. We will sending more details to parents and carers about the testing process as soon as we have more information and plans are confirmed.

The challenges of 2020 have been significant, and I am continually impressed by the way our students, staff and the wider community adapt to them and carry on. Life has been and continues to be difficult for many members of our school community and I want to reassure you that we are working as hard as we can to offer the personalised support needed in such unusual times. I am hopeful for 2021 and what it may bring and look forward to seeing your children back in school on **Monday 11th January**.

With kindest regards,

Heidi Gale
Headteacher
Bramcote College

Encs.

