

Dear parents and carers,

Sixth Form Online Learning

During this period, where your son/daughter will be accessing their learning from home, The Canterbury Academy will continue to provide varied learning activities, including the delivery of new content and support and feedback to learners via our central platform Satchel One: Show My Homework. All learners at the Academy have access to this platform. Should you or your child have any issues in accessing this platform, please contact Mrs Morse, Head of Learning - Sixth Form.

We are looking at evolving our online offer to include a 'pilot' in some sixth form subjects, which will include interactive elements between staff and students. We will begin to roll out this offer during the week beginning 18th January across a range of subjects. In order to facilitate these sessions, we will be using the online platform 'Microsoft 365' to which all students have access. The Microsoft 365 software enables all students to access and download free apps such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Teams and Microsoft Excel, which can also be used on a mobile phone or tablet.

Using this platform, teachers are able to offer 'Teams meetings' in which students can meet with their classmates and their teacher to discuss their learning and ask any questions they may have. However, students who are unable to attend sessions at the specified time will not be penalised. Content delivered by members of staff during these sessions will be recorded, with links sent to the group, to enable those who wish to listen again, or catch up later, to do so.

This extra layer of support built into sixth form lessons will be available for students, should they wish to engage with it. The 'interactive sessions' will take place during one or more of the students' timetabled lessons so they can engage with their teacher when they would normally have a lesson with them. More information on how students can access this software and use it safely will follow later this week. To reassure those who prefer the independence and personal support of the current model, it is important to note that our 'live' online sessions will be in addition to, and not in replace of, our existing packages.

Your son/daughter is still able to communicate directly with their class teachers via Satchel One, via email and through Microsoft Teams and should continue submitting their work to their teacher, who will provide regular feedback. The delivery of new content will still include, where appropriate, narrated PowerPoints, links to relevant videos or websites, or links to online textbooks or programmes that students are familiar with using within school. If your son/daughter does not have regular access to a computer or device, please make sure that their Head of Learning is aware so we are able to look at how we can support with this.

We would like to thank you for your support during this period and again reiterate that, while we are unable to physically see the students in the classroom, our staff are still very much here to support virtually. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Morse, Head of Learning – Sixth Form, in the first instance on rmorse@canterbury.kent.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,

Mrs L. Winslow

Head of Sixth Form