

Middle and Senior School Online Learning- live mentoring sessions

Dear parents and carers,

After very successful feedback from our 6th form 'live' elements pilot, we are now in a position to write to you with further details of our roll-out of interactive elements. Learning activities, including the delivery of new content, support and feedback to learners, will continue to be delivered 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 the relevant Head of Learning.

We are continuing to evolve our provision and are now going to augment our online offer to include live sessions in senior and middle school mentoring for students in Years 7-11. This will include at least one weekly interactive element between mentor and mentees, which we will take place from next week. 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 downloaded and used on a mobile phone.

Using this platform mentors will be offering Teams meetings in which students can meet with their peers and their mentor to discuss their learning and ask any questions they may have, from Show My Homework tasks, to time management or well-being. Students, however, will not be penalised if they are unable to attend the mentoring session at the times allocated. 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 that we will build into our provision will be available for students, should they wish to engage with it. Students will also be able to access these meetings without the camera option, if they would prefer to 'listen' to the session. The first 'interactive mentor session' will take place the week commencing 25th January so students can engage with their mentor around the time they would normally have morning mentoring. More information on how students can access this software and use it safely will follow later this week, with invitations from your child's mentor to join their session following in due course. To reassure those who prefer the independence and personal support of the current model, it is important to note that our 'live' online elements will be in addition to, and not in replace of, our existing packages.

Your son/daughter is still able to communicate directly with their mentor via Satchel One, via email and through Microsoft Teams should they have any questions or queries.

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.

If you have any questions about your child's remote learning, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Head of Learning in the first instance:

Mr Palmer, Senior Head of Learning - Middle School: rpalmer@canterbury.kent.sch.uk

Miss Taylor, Head of Learning - Year 7: rtaylor@canterbury.kent.sch.uk

Mrs Cox, Head of Learning - Year 8: rcox@canterbury.kent.sch.uk

Mr Bonney, Head of Learning - Year 9: jbbonney@canterbury.kent.sch.uk

Mrs Bonneywell, Senior Head of Learning - Senior School: nbonneywell@canterbury.kent.sch.uk

Mr Rattigan, Head of Learning - Year 10: drattigan@canterbury.kent.sch.uk

Miss Phillips, Head of Learning - Year 11: lphillips@canterbury.kent.sch.uk

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.

Best wishes,