



Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

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Ryecroft C.E. Middle School
Ashbourne Road
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ST14 5PB

8th February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you so much to everyone who responded to our online learning questionnaire and to those who have given us such positive feedback via emails and the parents' evening consultations. Your feedback is vital in helping us to understand what is working well and what we can do to further improve our provision for pupils.

I wanted to share the key actions we are taking as a result of your comments and our own observations.

| Concern | Action |
|---|--|
| 1. Pupils do not have enough time to complete their work in lessons and are spending long periods of time on devices completing homework. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Staff will ensure they allocate adequate time during the lesson or subsequent lessons to allow time for completion of workWhere possible, staff will ensure differentiated tasks are available to meet the needs of the learners – rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.To reduce time spent on devices, additional homework tasks will not be set unless it's absolutely necessary.In back to back lessons, teachers will add mini mind breaks to give pupils a short rest from their screens. |
| 2. Quiet pupils are not asking questions and therefore miss out on support. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">We are investigating the use of break-out groups in TEAMS, where the teacher can speak to individuals or small groups to give pupils bespoke help and feedback.Pupils who do not want to speak up in the virtual lesson or via chat function will be encouraged to contact their teacher using their work email if they would like further support. This could result in a 1:1 break-out meeting or a phone call home.Please talk to your child about this option. Emails are listed on the website but also at the end of this letter. |
| 3. Pupils using inadequate devices | <ul style="list-style-type: none">We don't want any child to be accessing their learning on a phone as this is far from ideal.Teachers will be regularly auditing their classes to identify pupils on phones.Feel free to contact the school if you know your child only has access to TEAMS via a phone.We may not be able to supply an alternative immediately but we will endeavour to source devices if and/or when we are aware of the issues. |
| 4. Unable to submit work | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The staff are recording the results of the work they receive via submitted classwork and tests. This will help to build up a picture of attainment and progress that we can use to plan and plug gaps when pupils return to school. This can be done in some instances in the virtual lesson itself.If your child needs a quick reminder as to how to submit work via TEAMS, they should flag this up with the class teacher either in lesson or via a message.Staff will check their email accounts to pick up any work that is sent via this method.Staff will remain on hand for the duration of lessons, unless pupils have been given independent learning time, so that they can ask questions at any point.If all else fails, please encourage your child to keep a hard copy of their work for each subject to bring into school with them.Above all keep us in the loop so that we can help, offer advice and support wherever possible. |

UTTOXETER LEARNING TRUST

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Understandably, there are lots of other issues that affect pupil learning that are not listed here. If you feel that your child is not getting the benefit from online learning and accessing work appropriately, please contact us so that we can put measures in place.

Unfortunately, connection issues are beyond our control and we experience technical issues at School which have disrupted our provision and ability to teach in the preferred way. Thank you for bearing with us when these issues occur and for letting us know when the same has happened at your end!

When pupils are given longer stretches of independent working, we have asked staff to keep the lesson open and record for the full duration of the lesson rather than to ask pupils to log in and out multiple times. Hopefully, this will prevent further connection failures and TEAMS dropping out.

We are trying to balance the difficulties faced by the teaching staff too who also have families and childcare issues. You may find that some lessons are flipped, with pupils completing work that is sent prior to lessons and the teacher then joining for the second half of the lesson to go over answers and discuss the work. This is to enable staff to collect children, get home and resume their virtual teaching.

I would also like to take the opportunity to mention that we will **not** be issuing any Easter reports. The current climate does not offer a level playing field on which to judge the progress of the children and we acknowledge that every child's experience and situation is different.

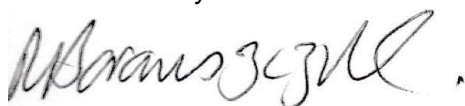
If pupils return to us on or after 8th March, as suggested, we will use the time to assess what pupils have learned and where their gaps lie. We would hope to get an interim report out to parents for the summer half term with up to date and accurate information.

The government have informed us that we will be notified two weeks prior to the return of pupils so we hope to have more information on Monday 22nd February. I will be in touch as soon as we know more.

| Tutor | Role | Email |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Mrs Blues | Lead for RE/History | cblues@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk |
| Ms Bower | Lead for French | abower@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk |
| Miss Sargeant | Head of English | ksargeant@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk |
| Mr Hughes | Head of Maths | ahughes@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk |
| Miss Doyle | Lead for Geography | ldoyle@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk |
| Miss Starkey | Lead for PE | nstarkey@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk |
| Mr Johnson | Lead for Music/ICT | bjohnson@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk |
| Miss Alston | Lead for DT/Art | dalston@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk |
| Mrs Thornton | | athornton@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk |
| Mr Hall | Lead for Science and Behaviour | mrhall@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk |
| Mr Bardon | Lead for Safeguarding/SENDCo | sbardon@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk |
| Mrs Hurdman | Lead for Wellbeing/Assistant SENDCo | churdman@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk |
| Miss Baramuszcak | Headteacher | headteacher@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk |

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. Thank you once again for your support.

Yours sincerely



Miss R Baramuszcak
Headteacher