



Spalding High School

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Headmistress Mrs M Anderson B.Ed

17th December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Staggered return in January 2021

Further to today's headlines regarding the prospect of a staggered return to school in January 2021, I am writing to update you as to our approach to teaching and learning after Christmas.

Before detailing our approach, I would first like to remind parents and carers of the previously shared research published by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) on remote learning ('Best evidence on supporting students to learn remotely') on which our approach is based.

The research found that teaching quality is more important than how lessons are delivered. Ensuring the elements of effective teaching are present – for example, clear explanations, scaffolding and feedback – is more important than how or when they are provided. There was no discernible difference between teaching in real time ('synchronous teaching') and alternatives ('asynchronous teaching'). For example, teachers might explain a new idea live or in a pre-recorded video or narrated PowerPoint. But what matters most is whether the explanation builds clearly on pupils' prior learning or how pupils' understanding is subsequently assessed.

Should a staggered return be initiated, staff will provide students with instructions and resources via Microsoft Teams, email or the School VLE. Instructions may be provided on a per-lesson basis or at the beginning of each week.

All work set by staff will be consistent with the principles identified by the EEF; namely:

- Ensuring students receive clear explanations;
- Supporting growth in confidence with new material through scaffolded practice;
- Application of new knowledge or skills;
- Enabling students to receive feedback on how to progress.

As well as providing instructions and resources, staff may also live-stream some of their lessons. For example, a teacher may deliver a live-streamed introductory session with a view to explaining a concept or topic and/or preparing students for independent practice.

As per the EEF research, we will continue to give departments autonomy as to their preferred approach, although we will expect departments to take a balanced approach between synchronous/ asynchronous teaching in order to provide students with opportunities for peer interaction, including sharing models of good work and live discussion of content.

Please note, some content does not lend itself well to live-streaming. As such, departments will continue to be supported to consider which approaches are best suited to the content they are teaching and the age of their pupils.

Where staff do live-stream lessons, these will take place according to students' normal timetabled lessons. Students should expect these lessons to be shorter than normal.

Where students are joining live lesson from home, we would ask them to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Students must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household who will potentially be in shot.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, the kitchen, dining room or study and definitely not in bedrooms.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Students should ensure their microphone and camera are turned off. They should not turn them on unless asked to by their teacher. Even then, the background should be blurred or a neutral setting such as a wall.
- Students must only use the Chat feature when asked by their teacher and to keep all ‘chat’ to a minimum and on task.
- Students must not record or take photos of classmates or teachers during video conferencing sessions, nor share lessons publicly.
- Students need to understand that remote learning is a new experience for teachers as well as students so there is a need to be mindful and interact patiently and respectfully.

Any student misusing these functions will be removed from the lesson and their parents or carers contacted. All live lessons will be recorded so that if any issues arise, the video can be reviewed. Videos will not be stored in the long term and will be destroyed at the end of the academic year. Students should understand that these rules are designed to help keep them safe online and that if they are not followed, school sanctions will be applied.

We understand that technical issues and/or bandwidth restrictions might make it difficult for students to join live-streamed lessons. We are also mindful that not all students have their own device and may be sharing with other family members. All live-streamed lessons will be recorded and saved in the relevant class Team’s ‘Channel’ meaning that students unable to join will be able to review the lesson at their convenience.

Should your daughter/ son be experiencing any difficulties accessing Teams, the VLE, a digital device or the internet, please email enquiries@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk, in confidence, and a member of staff will contact you.

For information, my recent letter explaining how to access Microsoft Teams and Office 365 as well as the ‘Quick Start Guide’ that we have shared with students can both be found on the School website: <https://www.spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk/covid-19.asp>.

Should you encounter any difficulties with Teams or Office 365 and require technical support, please email: 365Help@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk

Kindest regards,



Ben Love
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