



This newsletter is designed to give some more clarity and guidance in relation to home learning in these unprecedented times. We have consulted and looked at how we might develop our home learning support further, to make it easier for pupils to access teacher guidance and support. Moving forward, we also aim to ease access to resources and feedback for all students through the use of Microsoft Teams as the main platform for all our home learning. It has an easy to use app which can be used on mobiles and tablets.

Learning hours at home

- We still advise 2-3 hours of guided learning each day using. There is also an enrichment section on the website to guide students in areas of interest and in supporting their wellbeing.
- Please be reassured we are still not expecting you to teach your children; the work provided should continue to enable students to work largely independently with just some parental guidance.
- Any dates / timescales given out by staff for work submission are there to provide structure and support pupils in managing work. Of course we would like pupils to meet these deadlines, but we understand this may not always be possible. These will be set via the assignment tab on Teams that will appear on your child's class Team.
- Assignments can be uploaded directly to Teams in the assignment section, where staff can acknowledge and feedback on the work.
- All set work will be on your child's class Team and will remain there to be added to on a weekly / fortnightly basis, with clear instructions and guidance.
- Students will be able to ask questions about the work and misconceptions through the 'chat' on the main page.
- Any student who cannot access the online learning can still request a paper pack to be collected from school. These requests can be made using the following email address: homelearning@brineleas.co.uk
- Students also need to look after their wellbeing. There will continue to be a section in the home learning area of the website entitled 'Enrichment', which offers non-curriculum activities.

How to access learning resources

- For the first week back after half-term staff will set work on Teams *and* on the home learning section of the website to access the instruction sheets for each subject. From the 8th May onwards all work will be set via Teams only. Each class will have its own Team, which your child will be a member of. This Team will enable your child to access work, feedback and guidance in one virtual space.
- To access Teams your child needs to know their school login and password in the same way they access the Portal. Please see the Teams guidance sent out with this
- We, of course, still understand that home learning can take many guises and continue to encourage pupils to undertake other opportunities being offered, such as PE with Joe Wickes, virtual museum tours, watching documentaries, etc.
- BBC Bitesize: you can access regular daily lessons in English and Maths, as well as other core subjects, in an expanded version of the BBC Bitesize website and also on special programmes broadcast on BBC iPlayer and BBC Red Button. Bitesize also has an app. This will be providing daily lessons for 14 and 15 year olds. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- As you may have heard from the government, the Oaks Academy has now been launched where teachers are providing online lessons. <https://www.thenational.academy/>

Feedback

- Using Microsoft Teams, specific assignments will be set for your child's class and you can upload electronic documents to Teams, as well photographs of work, so staff can feedback on this. Please bear in mind staff will have multiple Teams and therefore feedback will not be instantaneous.

Further guidance - subject clinics

We will be offering clinics with subject specialists once or twice a week, depending on the subject area. Your child will be able to drop into a meeting on Zoom and ask questions or gain further subject specific guidance. Thus far, we have refrained from using Zoom due to security concerns. Timetable for Zoom clinics will be sent with information as to how to log onto these. Therefore, we are launching subject clinics with clear guidance to ensure everyone is as safe as possible:

- These will happen only with staff who are on site at school and there will be multiple staff in the room.
- There will be no videos and only audio available.
- There will be a link for that meeting shared with all parents and students.
- We will use the waiting room facility so one pupil is let in one at a time.
- We would ask that parents where possible are present in the background.
- No audio from that meeting is to be recorded by parents or students.
- If this is not used safely we would have to reconsider offering this facility.
- We will put the access information for these on the home learning section of the website.

Stay safe and take care!