



6th January 2021

Dear Year 7, 8 and 9 parents/carers,

Spring Term 1 – Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9

We are pleased to have launched our remote learning package to Years 7, 8 and 9 this morning to mark the start of the spring term. We know many parents and pupils have worked hard at home to set up working spaces and ensure devices are ready.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any barriers to accessing live lessons by emailing Mr Ali via w.ali@decschool.co.uk so we can support with solutions available to us.

Following on from announcements made by The Government this week, the full details of the implications for schools can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#going-to-school-college-and-university>

How will Year 7, 8 and 9 lessons look moving forward?

From Wednesday 6th January to Friday 8th January, pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 who are working from home are to continue with their normal school timetable, accessing the relevant week and lesson number on the remote curriculum plan for each of their subjects. Your child's remote learning package can be found via the school website: <https://www.decschool.co.uk> by accessing the "Remote Learning" tab at the top. Remote learning has been broken down into individual subjects and links to the curriculum content being taught at this point in the year.

From Monday 11th January, pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 are required to join live lessons being delivered on Microsoft Teams. This will continue in line with pupils' timetables for the duration of the school closure period. Therefore, pupils should be ready and logged on to MS Teams for the start of each school day. The teacher of each lesson they are due to attend will invite each pupil into the lesson which will involve approximately 20 minutes of direct teaching, followed by a set of activities. The lesson will conclude with a short period of review.

During the live lesson, pupils will not be permitted to have their camera on and will be required to communicate with the member of staff via the chat function rather than through spoken dialogue. This is due to the number of pupils in the lesson and the difficulty created when multiple people speak at any one time.

How do we set up MS teams if we haven't used it before?

Microsoft Teams can be downloaded for free and works perfectly on a mobile phone or tablet as well as a computer (<https://teams.microsoft.com/uswe-01/downloads>)





If you do have any difficulties with IT access please contact IT Support via ITsupport@decschool.co.uk

What is happening for pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals?

We will make contact with all parents of pupils who are eligible for FSM over the coming days to offer a food parcel covering the first two weeks of school closure. Parents/ carers will need to confirm they would like a parcel before we order goods and packaging. Once parcels are ready for collection, we will make contact to outline arrangements for collection.

Can pupils attend school?

School is closed for almost all pupils. The only pupils who are in school are those whose parents are critical workers who have requested provision and those who are deemed vulnerable according to support they may be receiving from Birmingham Children's Trust. If you feel you require a critical worker place for your child in school, please contact Mr Ali via w.ali@decschool.co.uk.

Is COVID-19 testing continuing?

No. We will continue with a very small scale testing facility for staff who are working on site, and for pupils who are attending school as part of the key worker/ vulnerable provision. The Government have indicated that mass testing may take place prior to schools reopening later in the term.

What can I do if I need advice/ support?

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us. For all year groups please contact your child's Head of House.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M. Dunn
Head Teacher

