

13 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

January 2021 Remote Learning update letter

In these difficult times, I hope you are continuing to keep well and stay safe.

I am writing to update you further on improvements to our remote learning provision, so students are able to access a more challenging, broad and balanced curriculum.

Remote Learning

After reviewing the success of some live lessons during the first week of this new lockdown period, we have decided to move **all** lessons to live lessons from **Monday 18th January 2021**. Students will follow their original normal school timetable in their tutor groups with their usual teachers, but at the current adjusted timings to allow a morning Tutor Time to take place and to fall in line with Key Worker school. This will also enable teachers to accurately track and monitor the attendance of students in their groups and for students to be able to more successfully engage in tasks, particularly in maths, science and English.

The expectation is that students should be attending **all** their lessons as they would if they were in school and I thank you for your support with this.

Tutor group timetables will be available on the academy website, so students will be able to see what lessons are being delivered. They can also be found in student planners.

Period	Start	End
Tutor	09:00	09:30
Period 1	09:30	10:20
Break	10:20	10:40
Period 2	10:40	11:30
Period 3	11:30	12:20
Lunch	12:20	13:20
Period 4	13:20	14:10
Period 5	14:10	15:00

In **live** lessons students are able to see and hear their teacher. To access a live lessons students will need to open Microsoft TEAMS and enter the **calendar** and click on the lesson scheduled by their teacher.

Here is a link to a video tutorial of how students can access their school Microsoft Teams account.

<https://www.loom.com/share/9edb8318e1dd4c2cbbf6619a7e55623f>

Microsoft Teams can be accessed through a number of different platforms; PC, laptop, phone, tablet, smart TV, Xbox or PlayStation. Further information of how to access this can be found on our academy twitter account.

We are continuing to support families in overcoming barriers to digital access through the distribution of laptops alongside working with mobile phone network providers to provide free data access to educational sites. In addition, students who are still unable to access live lessons, are entitled to places at Keyworker School, while they wait for laptops from the DFE to arrive in school. Parents and carers have already been contacted about this provision.

I really do appreciate your continued support with the provision we are providing Merrill students. Tutors will also be continuing their safe and well-being checks which gives you an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Yours faithfully



Ms J Harlow
Headteacher