

CITY OF DERBY ACADEMY

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Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Important CODA Updates 22nd January 2021

We hope that you are well and that week three of this lockdown has gone well. I would like to thank all parents and students for the high levels of engagement with our full curriculum of online remote teaching. Although remote learning cannot replicate every element of the students' experience during face-to-face teaching, I want to thank our staff as they are trying their hardest to provide the best face to face learning for your child by being 'live' on Microsoft Teams for every lesson.

Remote Learning Expectations

Your child is expected to be attending every one of their timetabled lessons as well as registration. If your child is having difficulties access their learning there are a number of help resources (including videos) on our website on the 'Remote Learning' page: <https://www.cityofderbyacademy.org/remote-learning/>. If your child cannot access their learning through lack of hardware or WiFi issues, please contact the school as soon as possible so we can support you.

One of our top tips for parents would be to show an interest in your child's work. If there are elements that need further assistance, please encourage your child to contact their teachers.

Remote Learning Tips for Parents and Carers

As we are three weeks into this new remote learning experience, we wanted to take the opportunity to say what an amazing job you are doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time. We have included a National Online Safety top tips for parents that might be of use for you.

Child Illness

If your child is unable to access their live learning because they are ill, can parents please still let the school know.

Volunteers

I would like to thank our wonderful members of the school community who have volunteered to support in our Lateral Flow Testing Centre. If there are any other members of the community who would like to volunteer, please contact mbell@cityofderbyacademy.org

Year 9 Guided Choice

After half term, the whole of Year 9 and their parents will be going through their guided choice process, where students select which courses they wish to undertake in Year 10 and 11. This year, the events will be virtual, and more information will be given before half term. There is also a page on the school website which includes lots of help, advice and guidance.

Year 9 and Year 11 Parents Evenings

This year, both Year 11 and Year 9 Parents Evenings will be conducted in a different way due to coronavirus restrictions. After half term (w/c 22nd February 2021), Year 9 and Year 11 parents will receive a link to their child's latest

progress report. During that week, your child's teacher will be available via email or phone to give you feedback. Further details will be sent out soon.

Free School Meals

CODA are providing FSM through the government voucher scheme - EdenRed. Parents eligible for FSM will be receiving weekly emails. If your circumstances have changed and you believe that you qualify for FSM, please contact the school so we can support.

Bedrock Vocabulary

To build on our growing provision of remote learning, every child in the school will soon be getting access to Bedrock Vocabulary – an innovative literacy improvement tool that we have just purchased. Log in details will come in a letter from Mr Meehan next week and English teachers will explain how to use it to pupils in an English lesson soon

Year 11 'live' event

In the next couple of weeks, the year 11 team will be delivering a 'live' event for all Year 11 students and their parents. This 'live' event will provide students and parents will updates, advice and guidance with regards to Year 11 level 2 qualifications and examinations. Details of this event will be sent out soon.

Finally, we would like to share some positive news this week. Not only have we had a number of very kind members of the wider community donate laptops to CODA so we can distribute them to disadvantaged children, the Headteacher blog is absolutely packed with stories of excellence and fantastic learning. If you haven't read this week's blog it can be accessed on the school website.

We hope you have a good weekend!

With best wishes

CODA Senior Leadership Team

REMOTE EDUCATION 10 TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For parents and carers, remote education isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote education experience.

1. TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

As a parent or carer, your school may have explained how remote education works already, but children may still need help. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



2. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S COMMUNICATION AND ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



3. ESTABLISH A DAILY SCHEDULE AND ROUTINE

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



4. ENCOURAGE SCREEN BREAKS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AWAY FROM DEVICES

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks; however, it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



5. ENSURE YOUR LEARNING DEVICE IS IN PUBLIC SPACE IN THE HOME

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral, with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



6. IMPLEMENT SAFETY CONTROLS AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS ON APPS AND SOFTWARE

Dependant on how your school implements remote education, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



7. ENSURE YOUR CHILD ONLY USES OFFICIAL SCHOOL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



8. FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH RELEVANT SCHOOL POLICIES

Schools should have a policy on remote education that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



9. MAINTAIN FEEDBACK WITH TEACHERS

Engage in communication with teachers where possible, and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



10. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Remote education will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as they can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends every day might take its toll.

