

14 January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Remote Learning

I hope this communication finds you well. At The Farnley Academy, we are continuously trying to improve the education that we can provide in these unprecedented times. I would like to take this opportunity to communicate some new initiatives that we would like to launch with our students so that we are able to support their learning more thoroughly.

Increasing Lesson Time – Joining Lessons

All of our student body have now been added to individual classes for each of their lessons. Alongside this, teachers have calendared in their online lessons which subsequently will feature in our student's calendars on the Microsoft Teams platform. Therefore, to increase lesson time and make sure that students are logged in quickly and efficiently, we are asking that students no longer wait to be called by the teacher and instead select the 'Meet now' option on their class or calendar. This in turn will add them to a lobby where the teacher can admit them. Many of our students have already adapted to this very quickly which has allowed teachers to maximise their learning time, as students have been entered into the meeting quicker.

Providing Student Feedback

One of the areas that we wish to move forward with is allowing our teaching staff to provide the critical feedback to students that we know will enable successful progress of our students. Whilst we have previously operated a policy in which students would work in their exercise books, we are conscious of the fact that teachers are unable to see this work in our current circumstances and thus, unable to provide feedback. In order to adapt to this new way of working, we are asking students to complete their classwork in their 'Class Notebook'. This function is essentially a working document that saves all of the work that students type into the document automatically. This will then allow our teaching staff to track and monitor the work that students are completing, whilst providing essential feedback. Your child will be shown how to use this function on Monday, 18 January 2021 within form time and subsequently, will move forward to using this function on this day. Please ensure that your child is logged on for form on Monday, 18 January 2021. Their form tutor will share the tutorial video with them that outlines where students can find this function to facilitate their learning. Our teaching staff will also model how to use this in their first lessons with students, so that students are embedded in this routine and know how to use it moving forward. If your child does not have a device with a function that allows them to type their answers, please contact school via info@farnley.leeds.sch.uk or contact our main reception so that we can assist you with this.

Homework

Our homework policy at The Farnley Academy has always been structured around the fact that we want students to build the resilience and independence required for examination success. Homework

tasks are carefully planned and mapped against the Curriculum and thus, we want all students to re-engage with homework as of Monday, 18 January 2021. Homework tasks will be shared with students using the Class Notebook feature that I mention in my previous paragraph. Once more, students will be shown how to use this in their tutorial on Monday morning, with further guidance offered from teaching staff next week.

As ever, we thank you for your support in these challenging times and are incredibly thankful for all of the hard work our students are completing. I am sure that you will agree that allowing staff to track and monitor work whilst providing feedback, is a step in the right direction in your child's remote learning.

Yours faithfully



Miss C Hart
Assistant Principal