

Blended Learning Guidance for Parents

There is an understanding that while not attending school there is less structure for pupils and thus following their usual timetable can be difficult. As such a timetable for pupils to follow is published on our website.

Years 7, 8 & 9

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9am	English	Maths Numeracy	Science	English Literacy	Maths
11am	History	Geography	Digital Skills	Welsh	RE
1pm	Art	Spanish	PE	DT	Music Drama

Year 10

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9am	English	Maths	Equality & Diversity	English	Maths
11am	RE	Option A	Option B	Option B	Welsh
1pm	Science	Science	Option A	Skills Challenge	RE

Year 11

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9am	English	Maths	Science	English	Maths
11am	RE	Option A	Option B	Option C	Welsh
1pm	Science	Skills Challenge	Option A	Option B	Option C

The day is split into three sessions to give pupils some structure to their day while working from home. All work is scheduled on the school's Google Classroom and each task should usually take 1 hour to complete (although some may take more). Additional resources are available on the school website for learners who complete all tasks. Work set is scheduled to appear at the start of each session.



14th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

At St Illtyd's we are developing a combination of three main types of lesson:

- A lesson where the teacher has prepared pre-recorded content to be viewed and/or listened to with work to follow. The teacher is still available on-line in real-time within the relevant class team or if that is not possible via their school email.
- A lesson where pupils are issued with a set task to work on during the lesson. The teacher will still be available on-line in real time to answer any queries as above and via their email.
- A lesson where the teacher is live and visible – or audible – in real time explaining, instructing and answering questions.

We know that children learn best when in classrooms taught by expert teaching staff, along with all the important relationships, connections and support that comes along with that. In the temporary absence of this crucial support, it instinctively feels like the best thing we can do is replicate as closely as possible the classroom experience in the home.

Such an approach can assume that households of both students' families and staff are in a position to run the school day according to the usual timetable; that families and staff are well enough to engage at that time; that families have enough suitable devices for all children to log in to different lessons at the same time; that pupils can view lessons on something larger than a mobile phone; and that their home internet data package is sufficient to successfully stream multiple lessons simultaneously.

For all these reasons, there is a danger that a reliance on one form of learning - live online teaching – would not suit all pupils or all households. It is also the message we have received from our pupil voice surveys. This is why we have not gone down the route of all lessons being live. Some schools may have, that is their decision based on their context.

We have asked staff to email pupils and parents if online work has not been completed. We know that juggling work and family commitments during a pandemic feels impossible at times and the intention is not to add to that load, it is to make you aware. There are many reasons as to why sometimes work has not been completed and we understand that, but it can also highlight if there is an issue which needs further support.

If your son/daughter feels as though they are falling behind with work, or has not completed any in a particular subject since the start of the school closure we do not want to add additional stresses with mounting workload and would ask they begin working on the tasks that are set this week, and only complete previously set work if they feel they can.

To date, correspondence from school has signposted pupils and parents to where they can get additional support both academically and pastorally through their subject teachers, form tutors and Heads of Year. Many of you have taken advantage of this and are engaging through teams' meetings, telephone calls and emails.

From Monday 18th January we will be commencing weekly live registration groups via Microsoft Teams, which will give pupils an opportunity to talk about how they are finding distance learning and receive additional pastoral advice from their form tutor. They will be able to use this session to raise any concerns with subject work and the form tutor can liaise with subject teachers to support them. Your child will receive an email with a link to their live session and we ask that they follow the school guidance on live lessons throughout.

If you have any problems accessing the learning resources or require any ICT support please contact itsupport@stilltyds.org.uk. For any subject specific enquiries pupils are to continue to contact their individual subject teachers. Any other enquiries please contact the Head of Year.

I hope that you and yours remain safe,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. B. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Mr D B Thomas

Headteacher