



Dear Parents/Carers

Newsletter (38) – 12th February 2021

Parent and Student – Remote Learning Survey January 2021 Feedback (Mr Goddard)

Thank you very much to all who contributed to the surveys on remote learning. The results were overwhelmingly positive about the experience students had faced this term. Please find attached the results of the survey and a summary of the wide range of comments that were made. The most common minor concern was over the amount of screen time students were having to deal with during the day. In light of this feedback, we will try and reduce the amount of screen time in two ways:

1. We have been asking teachers to vary tasks students have to do so that they aren't working at the computer for the full hour's lesson.
2. We also think that it would be sensible next term to reduce the length of each lesson for years 7-11 by 5 minutes from one hour to 55 minutes. This will give students a 15-minute break between most of their lessons whilst not reducing the amount of time with each teacher by a huge amount. Lessons will start at their normal times, but teachers will finish them 5 minutes earlier whilst remote learning continues.

The day pattern for years 7 to 11 will be:

Session	Begin	End	Duration minutes
Tutor time	8:30	8:50	20
Lesson 1	8:50	9:45	55
Lesson 2	10:00	10:55	55
Lesson 3	11:10	12:05	55
Lesson 4A	12:15	12:45	30
Lesson 4B	12:45	1:10	25
Lesson 4C	1:10	1:40	30
Lesson 5	1:50	2:45	55

Lessons 1,2,3,5 are 55 minutes

Year 7 and 10 (Lunch 4A; lesson 4B plus 4C = 55 minutes)

Year 8 and 9 (Lunch 4B; 4A plus 4C is 60 minutes - acceptable as lunch break is mid-lesson)

Year 11 (4A and 4B is 55 minutes; Lunch 4C)

Once again, thank you very much for your feedback. It is so helpful in making sure we are doing the best job we can in these challenging times.

Internet in school

Unfortunately, we have experienced a few problems with the internet connection in school recently and as a result your child may have experienced problems logging into some of their online lessons.

Our internet supplier has sent an engineer to look at why this is happening and has replaced what they assure us is the rogue part. We have been assured that this will provide us with a more reliable service going forward.

Safeguarding Update (Mr Bonsell):

Some of our students have mentioned a chat site called Omegle, which suggests it is a good way of meeting new people in lockdown. There are age conditions, but from our information they do not seem to be particularly enforced. As this appears to be "new" we wanted to make you aware of it so that you can talk with your child about it, and indeed, about appropriate use of social media in general.

Return to school

We are expecting an update around February 22nd on schools reopening. We know that we will not begin to welcome larger numbers of students back until at least 8th March. We will send updates as soon as we know anything.

Keeping spirits up!

As well as online learning this term, we have been finding ways to look after the wellbeing of all our staff and students. We have introduced weekly fitness sessions, which have included dance classes, yoga sessions and fitness workouts with Miss Corson (Wood Green's version of Joe Wicks).

Teachers have also been finding ways to engage students in their learning away from the screens too. Here are some examples of a few of these:

Our Year 9 Geography students were asked to do some fieldwork in their gardens identifying stores of carbon and complete a sketch map to identify them or redesign their garden to include larger stores.

The French department asked students to study monuments of Paris and then build a model of one of them from household items. Here are a few examples. Can you guess the monuments?



The English Department have been asking students to create Top Trump cards to summarise the key elements of plays, novels and poems.

In order to keep our Sixth Form spirits up during lockdown, we have been running a weekly **Funtime Friday challenge**. From baking famous faces to crafting 6th form bunting, they have embraced the challenges with gusto. Our first challenge (throwing a dry tea bag into a mug from as far a distance as possible - harder than it sounds) resulted in this video: <https://youtu.be/maspzfdGmCA>. See if you can have a guess who the famous faces on the cakes are? I am sure you will agree the next Bake Off winner could be amongst them!





Staff are also putting together a recipe book for our Year 13s so they can dazzle their university flatmates with their culinary skills. From Mr Askew's corned beef hash, to Mr Jones' home made pizza, there will not be a tin of baked beans in sight!

Finally, Mrs Cobb arranged for WGS students and staff to receive a special message from Mike Bushell, Sport Presenter and Ex Strictly Star, please [click here](#) to watch and listen.

We like to hear 'Good News' stories about our students and their families. If you have any 'Good News' to share email us at office@wgswitney.org.uk. Don't forget you can also find out what's happening by following our twitter account @wgswitney.

Help our year 12 EPQ students by completing this survey:

Henry Rose "I am doing my EPQ on "how football has changed in the premier league era" and, for primary research, I have made a quick 2 or 3 minute survey about this topic. I would be grateful if you could complete it for me."

[Click here to complete Henry's questionnaire](#)

May I wish all our students and their families a relaxing half term break.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Shadbolt
Headteacher

They say you should take a few minutes each day in lockdown to look at the world, so in case you missed the sunrise this morning...



Attachment: WGS Parent and Student Remote Learning Survey Jan 2021 – Summary