

Letter ref: SDS/L7 24th November 2020

The virtual blended learning 'online classroom' - A 'how to' guide

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to share with you a 'how to... use our blended learning platform' video and guide.

Following the release of the first school reports of the year, we would like to further explain how we intend to use the platform going forward to help students with their learning. In the recent school reports you will notice we have included 'I can....' statements forming a Personal Learning Checklist for your child. This feature maps out what your child can and can't do from their recent work. Armed with this knowledge, your child can get help on what they can't do both in class and from our blended learning platform. For example, if they could not label an animal cell and plant cell from their assessment, they can use the resources in our platform to know how to do this. There are help sheets, guides and even video lessons in some cases.

Attached is a link to view a short video explaining how to access the blended learning platform again and how to find your way around it: <u>How to use our Blended Learning Platform</u>. A transcript of the video can be accessed using this link: <u>Video Transcript</u>

These are still early days for our virtual blended learning 'online classroom.' We are sure you can start to see how it is developing into an incredibly useful tool to support learning. Over the next academic year, we hope to match up and hyperlink the 'I can... statements,' or Personal Learning Checklists, to the resources in the platform in all topics and subjects. This is already happening in a few departments.

Later this week we intend to send out some additional video tutorials to show what English, Maths and Science have built within their platform areas.

To ensure we remain as Covid-19 secure as we can, we will be conducting parents' evenings virtually this year. We want to give you the dates early and further information will be sent out regarding how we intend to run them. Due to Year 8 and 10s being asked to self-isolate we will understandably run their sessions first.

Year Group	Date of virtual parents' evening
7	Tuesday 2 nd March 2021
8	Wednesday 9 th December 2020
9	Tuesday February 9 th 2021
10	Tuesday 12 th January 2021
11	Thursday 21 st January 2021
12/13	Tuesday 2 nd February 2021

Yours faithfully,

Mrs M Mincher Head of School