

Dear parents,

I hope you and your families are well. There is currently much speculation about when schools will re-open, but no firm facts, so we are continuing to assume that students will remain at home for the next few weeks, at least. At the same time, we're reading the relevant advice and starting to think about what a safe and successful re-opening might look like so that we will be ready when the time comes.

I'd like to thank you once again for your messages of support and for everything you are doing to enable your children to succeed and to remain as happy as possible at this time. We know that families face many pressures - concern about loved ones, challenges with basic needs such as getting shopping and medicines, uncertainty about the future - and on top of all this, there are pressures in many households over internet and computer access.

This week, I am asking teachers and Heads of Years to create a reliable picture of the uptake of remote learning among our students. We do want to contact students who are not accessing schoolwork to find out what the barriers are, and will follow up on this, but without pressure, especially with younger students. We will try to find solutions by working with the student and their family. We recognise that some students find distance learning very hard, while others have really embraced it.

So please join in the conversation if you have any points you'd like to make about what we are offering - I've included information below about how to get in touch.

There's some helpful advice here from the DFE about ways in which you can support your child during the lockdown:

[Supporting your children's education during coronavirus ...](#)

And these links will take you to some information about online safety:

[Staying safe online during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

Your child will be spending a lot more time online at the moment, and you may be concerned about their safety. I've included links below to helpful resources.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport has published [new guidance](#) on what you can do to stay safe online during the coronavirus outbreak.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

This is our overview of home learning:

Learning from Home at Camden School for Girls

I've provided more detail below about the ways in which teachers and pastoral staff will help students continue their learning during the national lockdown. We are keeping our approach under regular review and welcome feedback from students and parents.

We realize that the approach to learning from home needs to be flexible to reflect families' differing home circumstances, recognising that most parents are at work themselves, either working from home or away from home; some may be unemployed, caring for sick family or looking after children of differing ages.

How will students learn during the lockdown?

The majority of our students have access to computers and broadband, and teachers use Google education as the main platform for learning. We know which students do not have digital access and we are posting home paper copies of schoolwork, however, arrangements are now in place to assist these students and to work with Camden LA to support a very small number of families with neither computer access nor broadband.

What will home learning be like for my child?

Currently it is not reasonable or feasible for the school to provide a "normal" school education. The volume of work, marking expectations, curriculum coverage and standards cannot and should not be the same as when students are in school. For example, some activities may take much less time than at school and there may not be individual feedback on pupils' work. The offer will differ between Key Stages, and inevitably, there will be significant gaps in terms of the school's planned curriculum. These will be addressed at a later stage when the school reopens.

What is the curriculum my child should be following?

Teachers will follow the curriculum for each year group as far as possible. To see the curriculum content for each year group, go to the Student section of the Camden School for Girls website and scroll down to the bottom; click on the year your daughter is in for the Handbook; scroll through this for the curriculum outline. There are also useful revision website links in this area.

For more detail on the curriculum in each subject please visit [here](#)

What kind of learning activities will my child be doing?

Of course, the school cannot home-school students remotely nor replicate learning at school, so the activities may include a variety of small and short tasks that can be completed by the pupil in a given time, quizzes, reading tasks, visual responses and written work. We are encouraging practical and creative activities as well as knowledge-building and research.

How can I help my child as a parent, and how can I contact the school if I am concerned?

You are not expected to be a teacher or try to replicate a school day. Whilst learning will be a valuable part of every day, balancing periods of sitting with physical activity, fresh air and time for breaks will support your child's learning as well as the whole families' wellbeing. If you are able to help with

learning activities that would certainly be welcome, but we are designing the work so that students should be doing it independently. Please encourage your child to have a daily routine and to keep regular hours. Take an interest in their learning, as you always do, and, if you have time, share with them some of the amazing online resources that are available from museums, theatre and galleries.

You know your child best, and you will be able to judge whether they are doing too much or too little. If you are at all concerned about any aspect of their learning don't hesitate to contact us, either directly to their subject teacher, or their head of year, or write to csg@csg.school and we will forward your message to the right person.

How will the school stay in touch with me?

I will write to parents each week with information about developments in school and about relevant national information. I will also write to students each week and to parents and students through the Friday News.

Heads of Year are writing to students each week and they will also contact parents each week. We are also starting a Weekly Banda, in which we will list some extra-curricular activities students (and parents!) may like to follow, and this will be another way to communicate any important information to students' homes.

We are also staying in direct contact by phone with some individual students and their families where this is necessary.

Your child's Head of Year will also be happy to speak to you on the phone if you have specific concerns; if your child is unwell or in need of help that the school can provide.

How is the school making sure students are safe?

We have revised our school Safeguarding Policy in line with government requirements to incorporate reference to the home learning environment. In addition, teachers and students should follow our E-safety Policy. Both these policies are on the website. Google is recognised as a very safe and secure education platform for young people. If you have any concerns about your child's safety do please let us know.

I hope this information is helpful. We will keep refining it as we gain more experience of working in this way, and as you and our students provide feedback.

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy week,

Elizabeth Kitcatt
Headteacher
Camden School for Girls