

17th April 2020

**Parents and Carers
of TQEA students**

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well.

As a learning community of students, parents and teachers, we have all had to adapt quickly to remote learning and the challenges this brings. We recognise that change can present difficulties, but we are pleased to report that most students have engaged very well with the tasks set and that their education has continued. As a parent myself, I know learning at home can be challenging; I thank you for your ongoing support.

We have now spent a period of time reflecting on our practice and listening to feedback from staff, students and parents. Over the past few weeks, we have worked hard to develop a new initiative called ‘Subject Learning Grids’ through which we aim to further increase the consistency of what we offer, promote greater student independence and ensure high quality coverage across all subjects. We believe this will help our students to manage their workload better, reduce stress and anxiety, and make it easier for parents to see what work is expected and what work students are completing.

With the government announcing a continuation of the lockdown, now is the time to share the details of this with you.

Key information at a glance:

- Subject Learning Grids will be available to all students via Google Classrooms from noon on Monday 20th April. All previously set work is now optional.
- A KS3 and KS4 learning grid has been created for all subjects. Students don’t have to worry about selecting the correct ones; these have already been sent to them.
- Each Subject Learning Grid will contain lots of activities that link closely to the National Curriculum, our schemes of learning and GCSE specifications, ensuring that students continue to learn whilst they are not in the classroom with us.
- All activities will be worth points which vary according to levels of difficulty and the amount of time required to complete them.
- Subject grids will be shared online via Google Classrooms and every child will have their own copy to work on. Students should record all their work on their document which teachers will always have access to so that your child’s progress and successes can be monitored and celebrated.
- The expectation is that students attempt a minimum of 50 points worth of tasks per week for Maths, English and Science; 30 points per week for all other subjects they study.
- A recommended learning timetable has been developed to help students manage their time and cover all areas.
- Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will submit their work at the end of the half term.
- Students in Year 10 will submit their work twice, once by Friday 8th May and again at the end of term.
- If students get stuck or require guidance, they can contact their class teachers via email in the normal way.

The recommended learning timetable has been emailed directly to students by their Head of Year and is also available on our website for you to view. A sample copy of all the learning grids (in a single pdf file) is available on the website purely for your reference.

I understand that for some of our students, internet access may be difficult. There is an expectation that the majority of our students will learn online, however, paper copies will be made available for those who don't have access to a computer. These will be posted out automatically where required with further instructions.

To support our students with their mental and physical well-being we have also created a number of Kindness and Wellbeing challenges which have a dedicated grid of their own. I would hope that you would encourage your children to have a go at these challenges (you may even wish to take part in some yourself!).

Many of our students are producing some excellent work at home or are getting involved supporting their communities and we are keen to celebrate these successes and acts of kindness which showcase how fantastic our young people are. If you would like to share any positive news with us, no matter how small, then please do email us at showmywork@tqea.org.uk with information and pictures that you are happy for us to share via our website and other social media.

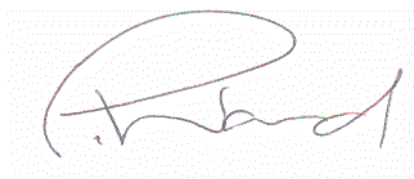
We are looking forward to seeing the wonderful work that our students are able to produce this term. Do please monitor this where possible; at any time students should be able to show you the work they've done for each subject.

If you need support or guidance, please feel free to contact the teacher or the Head of Year listed below.

Year 7	Mr Cope	via j.cope@tqea.org.uk
Year 8 and 9	Mr Saye	via j.saye@tqea.org.uk
Year 10	Mrs Morris	via a.morris@tqea.org.uk

We are missing having students in school and hope to see them back soon. In the meantime, please continue to look after yourselves and follow Government guidelines to ensure the safety of our whole community.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Ward
Deputy Principal
The Queen Elizabeth Academy