

# Stocksbridge High School

(A part of the Minerva Learning Trust)

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Dear Parent/Carer

We are in unprecedented times. What is happening at the moment is not home-schooling. Home-schooling is a choice that parents/carers consider and plan for. What you are doing is your best under very difficult circumstances. We appreciate that some of you are trying to work from home while your children are with you and understand how difficult this is. Stocksbridge High School teachers have worked at full capacity before the Easter holidays to provide educational work for students, often on a lesson for lesson basis accessible via Show My Homework.

Having listened to feedback from teachers, students and parents, from Tuesday 14th of April we are making some changes to how we set home learning. These changes are designed to support all students being able to manage their time at home successfully and to keep learning purposeful and engaging whilst we are not at school. Home learning set will focus on providing students opportunities to consolidate learning and practise skills already learnt in school so far this year rather than new learning. Please be assured that as a school we are working hard during this time, using guidance from the Department for Education, to ensure that planning is in place to support students when they return to school in order to minimise disruption caused to learning.

From Tuesday 14th April home learning will be as follows:

- Work set will be either as a range of tasks within a subject grid OR an extended project that students can work through at their own pace. Students can choose the tasks, or the project section, they want to complete each time they work on that subject.
- Subject task grids and projects will be set for all students on Show My Homework at the start of each week, entitled 'Learning for this week...' Work will also be able to be accessed via the 'Home Learning' tab on the school website: <https://stocksbridgehigh.co.uk/our-school/home-learning>  
The same work will be set over a number of weeks and then updated by subject teams, as there will be a series of tasks and extended project work there will be plenty for students to be getting on with.
- In some cases tasks in grids or tasks within project work will be labelled with the level of difficulty, sign-posting students to easier tasks and 'challenge/stretch' activities.
- Home learning will include a range of activities and approaches to learning including written, creative, discussion based, practical and online tasks - it is important to remember that there are lots of valuable ways to learn and that we don't always have to be sitting down at a computer or desk to be thinking and learning.
- Students are still encouraged to return work to their teachers if they are able through Show My Homework or via email.

Some parents/carers have asked what the structure of the day should look like and what each day should include. This varies depending on the age and character of your child - you have always been their first educator and you know them best. Minimising stress is really important in a time when the mental health of all of us is under strain. Don't let the home learning activities stress you out.

The advice below is designed to help:

- Stick to a daily timetable, decided in advance. This doesn't need to be a 'traditional' 5-hour learning day like we would deliver in school, it is also equally as valuable to include opportunities for students to be 'enriched' and take care of their personal well-being - to learn, think and grow in different ways. There are subject specific suggestions for 'enrichment' activities in the home learning section of the school website and within the example timetables.
- Use the example timetables for KS3 and KS4 students in the 'Home Learning' tab on the school website to help structure the day - these examples also include links to useful websites to support 'enrichment' and 'personal well-being': <https://stocksbridgehigh.co.uk/our-school/home-learning>
- Get students into a routine and habit of quickly of getting up, having breakfast, washing and getting dressed and then working through the home learning tasks following the agreed timetable.
- Try to ensure they have an appropriate learning environment, conducive to allow them to concentrate - somewhere visible where you can see them.
- Make a rule about no mobile phones and game consoles or limit the times when they can access them, but allow breaks at regular intervals.

We are making every effort with our home learning to support students and their families through these unprecedented times. We realise these are also unprecedented times for you also and we appreciate you are also doing your best, so don't worry if there is a day of baking, hands on practical, puzzles, outdoor fitness, creative and fun filled activities - this is all still learning.

Make sure you look after yourselves and your family.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs F. Finch  
Assistant Headteacher, Teaching and Learning  
Stocksbridge High School