



Alderman Peel High School

Alderman Peel High School
Market Lane, Wells-next-the-Sea
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Remote Education and “Live” Provision

Dear Parents and Carers

At Alderman Peel High School, our unwavering priority is the well-being of our students, their families and the school community as a whole. This overriding principle has directed our response to all of the challenges associated with Covid-19, including school systems and ‘Remote Education’ during national lockdowns.

During the Autumn Term, we surveyed all parents to identify any ICT and internet barriers in each family home in the event of further lockdown situations. The main findings of this survey were:

- Only 26% (approximately 1 in 4) students have their own laptop/PC.
- The vast majority of students share laptops/PCs at home with siblings and parents.
- 10% (approximately 1 in 10) had no access to a laptop/PC at all.
- While 99% of families have internet installed, a large proportion of the internet service is considered to be slow or unreliable.

This means that if we were to put forward a Remote Education offer based solely on delivering “live” lessons, this would be inaccessible for many students. This could easily lead to tension and possible conflict in many family homes, which is what we are working to avoid at all times. We have shaped our approach carefully and in combination with recommendations published by Ofsted and the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF).

Where available, we have prioritised the use of “Recorded” lessons such as those provided by:

- Oak National Academy
- Platforms such as GCSE Pod, MathsWatch, or Kerboodle.
- Staff within school have also recorded themselves teaching on PowerPoint presentations or screen-recording platforms such as Loom.

These recordings can be accessed more flexibly so that:

- Siblings can share time with laptops more easily;
- We can help ease competing pressures between family members.
- It is also possible to pause, rewind and replay recorded videos so that students can go back over things they struggle to understand.
- This reduces the pressure on internet service as multiple live streams are not running at the same time.

All of the above is all less possible with “Live” lessons. Ofsted recognises this approach to be as effective, if not even more effective than live lessons in our context. It also is less susceptible to internet and technical failures.

Despite all of this, we recognise that there is some appetite for some “Live” provision. We have trialled live lessons in some subjects, as well as running live assemblies and virtual tutor appointments. While they have been successful overall, the technical issues we had foreseen have been a factor and need balancing accordingly.

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Therefore, in addition to the existing live provision, we are also organising “Subject: Live” sessions between teachers and their classes in every subject. Students will receive one live session per fortnight for each subject with a focus on:

- maintaining relationships between students and teachers;
- interaction with peers;
- providing whole class feedback on work completed;
- explaining common misconceptions or errors;
- providing a sense of fun and engagement to motivate students in their work.

The nature of these sessions also make it possible for them to be accessed from smart phones, tablets or possibly games consoles, which are otherwise not designed for completing school work on for the DfE-required 5 hours per day.

All “Subject: Live” sessions will be scheduled using Google Meets and will be posted to classes via Class Charts. We can then review this process on an ongoing basis.

Thank you for your continued support during this time. We really do appreciate everything that you are doing.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Ogle
Principal

Mr M Hardman
Vice Principal

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