



Digital Bulletin – Online Learning

The government has recently announced that all schools across the UK will be closing. At RGS, staff have been preparing a provision of online learning in the event of such a decision. The good news is that as a school, we feel well prepared and have taken steps to ensure that our students have the information needed to access online learning. However, increased online usage brings some other considerations.

Where to access online teaching

Subject teachers have already been explaining to students where and how to access online learning. This will be based around Office 365, which the students have been using already for some time. It is likely that there will be other subject specific web sites that teachers might direct students towards.

What can students do to prepare?

Students have already been using Office 365, so this is familiar to them. They should check that their log ins work and that they know how to use Teams, OneNote, OneDrive and Sharepoint in particular. Students should ensure that they know where their work is saved in OneDrive, so it can be accessed from anywhere. Teachers will be informing students about what they need to be doing for each subject and how to communicate and submit work if they are not in school.

Behaviour

Following the school closure, students will find themselves working from home without the structure of a school day and also without the supervision of teachers. Students are reminded that any unkindness or bullying behaviour online will be treated in the same way as if it took place in the school playground. School sanctions will be used in any instances where social media, or any online communication has deliberately had a detrimental impact on another member of the school community. We would encourage open conversations at home about online usage, including which apps are being used and who they are speaking to.

Support

Pastoral support is at the centre of our provision for students and our ethos is to care for each individual child. If the school is closed, pastoral support will continue to be offered to students within the school. Students can email key members of the pastoral team and receive support though online communication. There is also external support for concerns about online usage and we frequently remind students about CEOP and NSPCC. Information on how students can access pastoral support, or concerns about online usage will be shown through the students' 'My Day' portal.

Parental Settings

When at school, the school Wi-Fi network and also the school computers have a comprehensive filtering and monitoring system in place. If students are at home, their internet access will only be limited by the parental settings that you have in place with your internet provider. It is possible that students may be working unsupervised at home and that measures should be put in place to ensure that they do not access any inappropriate online content. Please see the [previous Digital Bulletin regarding Parental Control](#).

If there are any topics that you would like more information about, or if you have any concerns regarding online safety, please feel free to contact me.