

HOW CAN PARENTS AND CARERS SUPPORT REMOTE LEARNING AT WILLENHALL E-ACT ACADEMY?

As the national lockdown continues, we know and appreciate all of the hard work that you as parents and carers are putting in to support our students with their on-line learning. We know it can be very stressful, so we have put together the following tips to support students learning

Creating a learning environment:

This could be a corner of a room or space that is dedicated to learning and reading. This is not always easy at present when many households are having remote working and schooling taking place. It is easy in the world of portable devices to fall into the habit of sitting on a bed or sofa but in terms of psychologically getting ready to learn, a designated working area helps. It aids concentration and focus and also means that when not working, the space can be left symbolises a step away from learning for a break etc.

Avoid distractions:

It is impossible when remote learning to avoid devices and screens. It is possible to reduce distractions however by turning off notifications from apps like Instagram and Messenger or setting limits on the amount of time permitted on social media each day. There are apps that will help you to restrict various aspects of your child's device to help focus and concentration and apps that are designed to help with remaining focused.

Encourage a growth mindset

This isn't about what to learn or how to learn but rather how to think about what they're learning. For further information you can see '[Alternatives To Asking Your Child What They Learned In School Today](#)

Getting into a routine

Routines and set times of day are really important. The school day starts on-line at 8.45 every day with a form time activity, then lessons for the rest of the day. Following a normal routine can help to ensure that the student is ready for remote learning, so rather than rolling out of bed and switching on a device, try to encourage a normality. For example, getting dressed, brushing teeth, having breakfast before switching on to engage in tutor time.

Be prepared:

Make sure they have any materials necessary to complete all assignments. Whether its pencil and paper, a stable WiFi connection, log-in information for all accounts, a PDF reader, or [note-taking apps](#) or [reading strategies](#)—whatever they need to get the work done.

Learn to identify the barriers:

The idea is to identify precisely why your child might be struggling: Is it focus? Motivation? Too much or too little structure? Do they need a hug or finger-wagging or for you to sit with them? And if it's a knowledge deficit, exactly what do they not understand? When students say, 'I don't get it,' the first step is to identify exactly what 'it' is—and this isn't always easy. Most students don't know what they don't know.

Learning breaks and fresh air:

Sitting in front of a screen all day can be hard. We have built in screen-time breaks to the day, and we recommend some time outdoors, perhaps for a walk when there is time. Exercise is vital, particularly our students who are used to a lot of physical activity in a week. It is key to their physical and emotional wellbeing and also helps with focus and the ability to feel positive. It is also very easy at the end of a remote learning day to switch off the laptop and switch on the television. Encouraging students to pick up a book, magazine or newspaper and read something not a screen will be hugely beneficial.

Make sure all work is completed:

Any work that remains incomplete is incomplete for a good reason and there is a plan to catch up. You could contact school or the teacher for further help, or let your designated staff contact aware and get their support.

Safeguarding

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ALL OUR DEVICES LOANED TO FAMILIES AND TEAMS ACCESS IS MONITORED BY A SAFEGUARDING PROGRAMME CALLED SMOOTHWALL. THIS PROGRAMME MONITORS FOR INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS MADE BY PUPILS DURING THE 'CHAT' FUNCTION ON TEAMS AND ANY SEARCHES DEEMED TO BE OF A SAFEGUARDING NATURE E.G. SEXUAL, RELATED TO SELF-HARM, LINKS TO GANGS OR TERRORIST GROUPS, ETC.

IF WE RECEIVE A SMOOTHWALL ALERT SOMEONE FROM THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM WILL MAKE CONTACT WITH THE FAMILY. FOR FURTHER SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE RELATING TO ONLINE SAFETY AND OTHER SAFEGUARDING TOPICS PLEASE SEE OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE UNDER THE 'SAFEGUARDING OUR STUDENTS' PAGE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS AND WISH TO SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM PLEASE CONTACT RECEPTION AND THEY WILL ALERT THE SAFEGUARD LEAD.

FAQs

Where is the homework? Your child is set assignments which can be accessed through the assignments tab for each Teams channel they have a lesson in

How do I upload my work? Your child can either submit an assignment that has been set in the assignments tab, or they can attach their work to a message to that teacher in the 'chat' feature on Teams.

Where are option lessons? In Year 10 and Year 11, your child should have a tile for each of their options subjects. If this is not the case, please contact your designated staff contact, or main school reception on 01902 368221

Lesson says cancelled or no lesson to join. Please bear with us – all of our teachers are working from home and there may be a technical issue. The lesson will appear as soon as the teacher is all set up. Please stick to the current timetable of lessons, sometimes old lessons that are cancelled can appear on a calendar – just ignore them