



WALTON HIGH

Leading Learning

Walnut Tree Campus: Fyfield Barrow Milton Keynes MK7 7WH

Brooklands Campus: Fen Street Milton Keynes MK10 7HE

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Executive Principal: Michelle Currie
Principal: Sharon Alexander

Chair of Governors: Renu Elston
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25 March 2020

Dear Parents

COVID-19: Update 8

I hope you and your family are well and adjusting to this new way of living and working.

Firefly

The problems Firefly was experiencing due to demand appear to have been resolved and we apologise for the inconvenience and frustration this may have caused. If your child continues to experience difficulties accessing their work, please ask them to email itsupport@mket.org.uk with an explanation of the problem and a member of the Technical Services Team will get back to them.

Advice on managing online learning at home

Below are answers to some FAQs

How long should my child spend on their work?

The lessons teachers are setting are planned to take an hour but it is possible to spend more or less time on the activities set.

Does my child have to complete the work by the deadline set?

Teachers are aware of the difficulties students have had accessing Firefly and the need to share their use of IT equipment with others in the family. The deadline is therefore advisory and is intended to give students a structure to their day. Students should aim to complete all the work set by the end of that week so they do not fall behind and feel overwhelmed.

How long should my child be at the computer without a break?

Students should spend no more than two hours at a time working on their computer and ideally have a short break every hour. They could use this time to help out around the home!

Will my child receive feedback on their work?

Students will receive feedback from their teachers as appropriate and this will be similar to what they receive when in school.

Will teachers be giving students work to complete away from the computer?

Yes. Teachers will be setting a range of activities, not all of which will require a computer.

Mental health

We recognise that many families are experiencing significant anxiety and stress which may have a detrimental impact on the mental health of both parents and their children.

Teachers and support staff are in contact with students on a regular basis and providing pastoral care as well as academic support. However, the NHS website offers some excellent advice on how a person can look after their own mental health and build resilience that may be of interest.ⁱ

MKET is providing an NHS recommended online Mindfulness courseⁱⁱ for its staff. The programme costs £30. Parents experiencing increased levels of anxiety and stress may also find the programme beneficial.

“Shout Out”

In the lead up to the school’s closure to most students, the school’s site team and cleaners did an excellent job at keeping the surfaces people regularly touched clean throughout the day. Thus helping to keep everyone safe.

Please ensure your whole family stays in as much as possible and follows the self-isolating, social distancing and hygiene guidance to keep your family and others safe.

With best wishes



Michelle Currie
Executive Principal

ⁱ <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mindfulness/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.bemindfulonline.com/>