



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Monday 13th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Years 7-10 Remote Learning on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March

I am writing to give further detail about how students working remotely on Wednesday and Thursday can access their lessons, how staff will deliver these lessons, along with general expectations and guidelines.

We have a duty to provide the best possible learning experience that we can, and nothing is better than students being taught by their timetabled teacher. Although not all teachers are taking industrial action, the rules and protocols do place constraints upon what we are able to do during their absence. For example, staff on strike will not be setting cover work, and staff in school are not able to set cover work or cover these lessons on their behalf.

This has made it challenging for all schools to decide the best course of action to take.

We believe that although we are only partially open for onsite learning, when not teaching Year 11 or the Sixth Form, staff attending can and should be delivering live lessons, according to their planned timetable. In this way students working from home have an opportunity to work with their usual teacher, ask questions, making best use of their time wherever possible.

This means that on Wednesday and Thursday we expect students to use Teams to access lessons provided. Details of how to do this are given below. Students are also being told in assemblies how to open Teams and access their lessons, where these are taking place.

Similarly, following my letter yesterday, families that do not have access to Teams have been in contact requesting written work, which Mrs Finch and her team are in the process of actioning – a pack of work will be sent home, where requested, with students tomorrow.

I'm grateful for all the feedback we've received regarding our plan for the two days and appreciate the support shown. Equally I accept that it's impossible to please everyone and some people may feel that we need to be doing something different. For the record, I will always try and keep the timetabled teacher in front of their students, by any means, to ensure that the learning we are able to provide is of the best quality.

I hope you find the following FAQs useful in helping your son/daughter prepare for live lessons. Do not hesitate in contacting me should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Headteacher



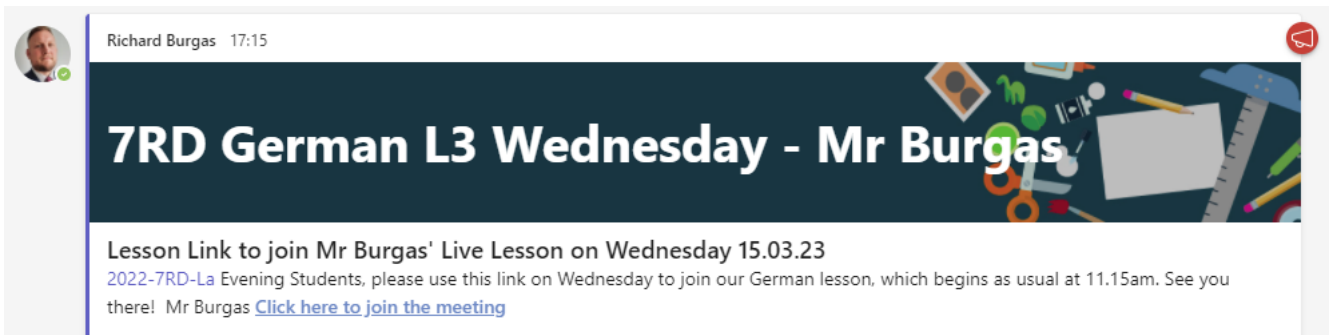
Live Lessons 15th and 16th March – FAQs

How will students know which lessons are running each day?

Staff choosing to strike are under no obligation to inform their employer, meaning that we cannot assume attendance and must wait until each day of action to see who does attend school to work. This means that we are unable to inform parents which lessons will definitely take place, but hope that for the large majority of students, they will experience a number of live lessons with their teacher.

We have asked staff attending to share a link to their lesson in the Teams channel for their class. This will be posted as a message to alert students that the lesson is taking place, with a hyperlink that joins them to the live lesson.

The image below is an example of this – you can see that I will be teaching 7RD Lesson 3 on Wednesday!



Students should click on the link, where they will then be admitted to the lesson by the teacher. Tutors are briefing students tomorrow and I would suggest students (and parents) monitor the Teams channels for their classes as I would expect staff attending to be posting these links over the next few days.

What is the format of live lessons? How will my child be taught?

The class teacher will be available to respond to questions from students throughout the lesson. The structure we are using is the 10-40-10 model.

- Teachers will deliver a 10min introduction to the group,
- then give them roughly 40mins to complete the task(s) set,
- then bring the class back together for feedback in the final 10mins.

Work may be set as an assignment so that students can complete and return it to their teacher.

What are the expectations regarding behaviour for live learning?

We understand that live learning can seem daunting. Staff will be adapting lessons to make them accessible to students. We ask that all students join the lesson with their camera on, but mic muted, for the initial 10min introduction. This enables the teacher to meet and greet students and settle the group. Students should use the 'raise hand' feature in Teams to request support or ask a question. The chat feature should only be used for conversations about the lesson. Staff will monitor students' responses and give praise and warnings as they would normally in any classroom.

If deemed necessary, staff may remove a student from the live lesson if their behaviour is having a negative impact on the learning and/or well-being of others.

Will written work sent home be the same as the live lessons?

It is not possible to provide written copies of the live lessons being delivered ahead of Wednesday and Thursday – instead we are issuing Maths and English booklets with a range of tasks and activities for students to complete.

Students will be given these booklets to take home on Tuesday 14th March.

Does the written work need to be handed in? Will it be marked?

Written work can of course be handed in. Staff are happy to give feedback regarding the quality and accuracy of any work completed.

If students don't attend the live lessons or complete the alternative written work, do they get marked as absent?

No, they will not be marked as absent. As we are having to restrict attendance over these two days, students being asked to work from home will not be penalised with an absence mark, regardless as to whether they complete any work or not.

What if I am unable to supervise my child or do not agree with them learning in this way?

It is our responsibility to consider the best way we can provide learning during periods of disruption and ensure that provision is made – we feel we have done this, based on both feedback from parents and what we are able to deliver. Live lessons are the best way forward.

That said, although we would hope parents are supportive and would want learning to continue, it is for parents to decide what they want their child to do on these days.

I am hopeful that we will see good online turnout over the two days, and we're looking forward to helping students maintain a routine. We will not have capacity to follow up with parents why their child did not attend their live lesson, unless we believe this is the result of a safeguarding concern.

Richard Burgas
13.03.23