



20 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

This period has been challenging for everyone and we hope you're all adjusting well in these difficult circumstances.

We wanted to get in touch with all our parents/carers keeping their children at home to let you know about our approach to home learning and what we're expecting from you and your children.

Our amazing staff have been working hard to make sure we can continue to provide education for your children. As a reminder, our current approach is:

- We recognise that learning at home is not the same as learning at school. We aim to be reasonable in our expectations
- For students in Year 7-10 and 12 our plan is to reinforce knowledge and skills that have already been taught in schools, so that students don't forget what they have already learned. This will mean that they are in the best place to continue with their learning when school reopens.
- For students in Year 11 we are providing them with a curriculum that gets them ready for their next steps, whether that is A Levels, College or an apprenticeship. All Year 11 pupils will continue with English and Maths, RE and PE, and we will provide a programme that broadens their cultural knowledge and experiences. We will also provide a programme designed by Eton College which will get them ready to be resilient in their next stage of education. Students planning to A Levels will continue with their study of their chosen subjects.
- For students in Year 13 we are providing them with a curriculum that gets them ready for their next steps, whether that is University, training or employment.
- All work can be accessed through Show My Homework. If this is difficult, whether due to internet access or access to a computer, phone or tablet, please contact the Head of Year.
- One piece of work per subject per week will need to be submitted through Show My Homework or through school email. This will be explained through Show My Homework. **Please note that the name of Show My Homework will change to Team Satchel at some point in May.** You will not need to do anything when this changes, simply carry on using it as normal.



- All tasks will have guidance as to how much time they should take. New tasks will be set each day, according to the new timetable, copies of which are on the school website <http://saintben.derby.sch.uk/content/parents/covid-19/>. If you cannot access the website, please ask the Head of Year to send you a physical copy.

We hope you can understand that we can't deliver the same sort of education we do when the school is fully open, but your children won't miss out by not being in school at the moment. We've tried to keep everyone's workloads – both pupils learning at home and those in school – comparable, appropriate and realistic during this turbulent period.

Please don't worry about your children getting behind with learning. Everyone's in the same boat, and when things get back to normal, we'll make sure we get everyone back on track.

You may have seen different approaches from other schools in the news, such as providing live lessons online. We decided not to do this because we know that some families in our community don't have the technology or time at home to support this kind of learning at the moment, so we're focusing on supporting pupils to learn in the most widely accessible ways possible. Some of our teachers have their own care responsibilities at home, such as their own young children, and it can be difficult to fit these around live lessons.

We'll continue to review how we deliver home learning, so we'll let you know if we decide to change our approach.

Supporting learning at home - the government has pulled together a helpful list websites (the link is below) to support learning at home, which have been identified by some of the country's leading educational experts. They offer a wide range of support and resources for pupils of all ages. They are currently being offered for free.

The list includes subject-specific resources for:

- [English](#)
- [maths](#)
- [science](#)
- [PE](#)
- [wellbeing](#)
- [Special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\)](#)

Individual resources cannot replace a school's properly planned curriculum, and the resources in this list are not intended to do so. They may be useful for parents in considering how they could support their



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children's education, but they should not be used in place of existing resources which schools may be using as part of their continued provision for pupils' education at this time.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

If you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by emailing us on [enquiries@saintben.derby.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@saintben.derby.sch.uk). This email is being checked on a daily basis.

If you're finding it hard at home with your child and are struggling to cope, call [Family Lives](#) for free, confidential advice on **0808 800 2222**.

If you're worried about the safety of another child in our community, call the [NSPCC](#) on **0808 800 5000**. Or call the police on **999** if you think a child is in immediate danger.

If you're concerned about the symptoms of the virus please find advice for those with symptoms or living with someone with symptoms on the NHS website online <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

We're extremely grateful for all the support we've received so far from the school community.

Yours sincerely

Sean McClafferty  
CEO

Kevin Gritton  
Headteacher