The Leigh Academy

Online Learning Guide For Families - 2023

Opening Minds to Success…

Contents

Over the past few years, digital technologies have served an increasingly important role in your child's education. Whilst the need to access online lessons from home is rare now, there are some instances when this might be necessary. In addition, our academy digital strategy means that blended learning is a core part of your child's education and therefore we want to ensure that all parents and carers have the most important information to hand. We have compiled some responses to the most frequently asked questions as well as key information on our expectations regarding blended learning.

With our developing blended learning provision, we are also using an increased variety of educational technology in the classroom and at home. On the following page you will find a glossary of the tools we are using, and some links to additional resources, with explanations of how your son/daughter might be using them to develop their learning.

We hope that this information is useful and that it leaves you well-placed to continue to support your son/daughter throughout the course of this academic year. If you have any questions about the online/blended learning provision currently in place, please contact your son/daughter's form tutor or college team via the established communication paths.

In this guide you will also find the following:

- Tips for creating a "classroom" environment at home

- How to use Google classroom

- A list of free educational resources websites that may support online learning

- IB learner effective learning checklist

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

- Ensure you are ready for online learning by making sure you are in every Google Classroom for each of your subjects.
- If you are off school and are able to work then you should log onto your Google Account every day to complete work set and review the resources. If you complete the work then there are other websites on the Leigh Learning Online website that you can work on.
- Contact your SSM or another member of your college team or relevant teacher if you are unsure. Alternatively, email info@leighacademy.org.uk and your email will be sent to the relevant person.

Open minded Risk-taker Knowledgeable Balanced Caring Reflective Principled Thinkers Communicators Inquirers

Using Google Apps

How do I access Google Classroom as a parent/carer?

Parents/Carers do not have a login to be able to access their child's Google Classroom. We recommend sitting down with your child and walking them through their Classroom with them to discuss their learning, their upcoming assignments, classwork and any notifications from teachers. To access the Google Apps on a web browser, go to google.co.uk and then your child will need to sign in using their school login details. It is also recommended that your child downloads the Google Apps onto their mobile device too via the App Store/Play Store.

How does my child sign into Google Classroom?

To access Google Classroom, your child will first have to verify that they are logged into their school account. The Google Apps for Education will not work from any external Gmail account. After this they can easily navigate to their Classroom via the menu which can be accessed via the 9 dots icon at the top right of the web browser. If you bookmark the page in your browser then it will be easy to find the next time. For a step by step guide to using Google Classroom, click here to watch the short instructional video. You and your child can also watch this video explaining how to join Google Meet via Google Classroom.

Where can I see my child's assignments, missing work and work that needs to be submitted?

Google Classroom is where your child can see all their assignments (including late or missing work) and future deadlines in their calendar. To view all assignments assigned to your child, with their due dates, you can either view the 'To-Do' tab in the Google Classroom or individually select a class and check under either the Stream or the Classwork page for upcoming assignments.

G Suite for Education	Google's free, online set of communication and collaboration tools. This includes Gmail, Classroom, Docs, Meet and Drive which enable teachers and students to connect, collaborate, provide and receive feedback. Your child can learn anywhere, anytime, on any device.
Google Classroom	Classroom is where your child can find their assignments, grades and feedback, and communicate directly with their teacher.
Google Meet	Meet is a secure video conferencing platform where teachers can hold class, record meetings, hold parent/teacher conferences or office hours, especially with distance learning, Meet has many features built in for accessibility, like live captions, and many features built for education. Meet can be used to recreate the experience of your child being in class to keep them learning.
Google Docs, Sheets, or Slides	Using G Suite tools like Docs, Sheets and Slides, your child can create documents, spreadsheets, or presentations that they can share with others, receive feedback on through comments, and edit in real time--with it all being saved automatically in their Google Drive.
Google Forms	Forms are often used by teachers for creating quizzes, parent feedback surveys, or even field trip forms. Your child may also use Forms for in-class activities like creating a poll, or sending out a survey to their class.
Google Drive	Drive is your child's virtual backpack, where they can hold all of their assignments, projects, and notes online. It saves automatically, can be shared with others, and is accessible from any device--all they have to do is login to their school Google account!

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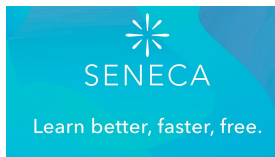
Creating a Home Learning Environment

Here are a few things to consider when developing a learning environment at home:

- **Set up a learning routine and structure:** Routines and structures may help children transition from learning at school to learning at home. While learning at home may look very different than learning at school, you can still create a predictable routine that helps maintain consistent expectations and help students feel safe. To create a routine that works for your children, consider the sort of routine that they would normally have at school in terms of learning and breaks.

- **Create a Physical Learning Space:** Set up a designated workspace for students before starting every day. Make sure your child has all his or her materials ready including pens, pencils, books, digital devices etc. Although some children may be able to work in various areas around the home, other children may work better in a consistent work area. While students are working, be sure to limit the distractions including the TV and additional devices.

- **Provide Mental Breaks:** People of all ages need time to reset and refocus. Younger students may need more breaks than older children. Gauge your children's level of attention and focus during specific tasks and offer "brain breaks" as needed. You might also help break the task up into smaller chunks to make it more manageable.

- **Give Space/Check-In:** Show that you believe in your children's abilities and independence by giving them space to learn and complete their assignments and tasks on their own. Check-in every 15 to 30 minutes to check their work, offer feedback and give additional instructions.

- **Offer Positive Reinforcements:** Give your children praise. It's not always easy to stay focused and motivated to learn when life seems so much more unpredictable than usual. Consider praising their effort rather than their accomplishments. Praising effort sends the message that you value their learning more than their performance, which can increase their growth mindset and overall effort. If necessary, offer small rewards.

Digital Learning

This is especially good for maths and computing for all ages but other subjects at secondary level. Note this uses the U.S. grade system but it's mostly common material.

KHANACADEMY

This site is a little old and no longer updated but there's so much still available, from language learning to BBC Bitesize for revision. No TV licence is required except for content on BBC iPlayer.

BBC Learning

Future Learn provides free access to 100s of courses. You only pay to upgrade if you need a certificate in your name (*own account from age 14+ but younger learners can use a parent account*).

Future Learn

For those revising at KS3, GCSE or A level there are lots of free revision content at Seneca. Some of the higher level resources require a fee..

SENECA
Learn better, faster, free.

OpenLearn has free taster courses aimed at those considering Open University but everyone can access it. Adult level, but some e.g. nature and environment courses could well be of interest to young people.

OpenLearn

This is more for printouts, and usually at a fee, but they are offering a month of free access to parents in the event of school closures.

twinkl

Crash course is a video based learning resource. There are lots of YouTube videos on many subjects.

CRASH COURSE

Similar to Scratch, this is another free visual programming resource where students can learn computer programming skills.

Blockly

With Crest Awards you can complete a range of activities from home that will help you to think like a scientist or engineer.

CREST AWARDS

Idea has a range of courses that can be studied independently.

iDEA

Mystery Science is a website that provides free science lessons to work through, many of which have video content.

MYSTERY science

If you are interested in 3D design then Tinkcad has lots of activities to keep you busy.

TINKERCAD

TedEd is a subsidiary of Ted. There are all sorts of engaging educational videos. This is available on their website or via an app.

TEDEd

On this website there are resources for English language learning.

BRITISH COUNCIL

The website is aimed at Secondary school students and there are a range of activities that help students to understand their past, present and future.

BIG HISTORY PROJECT

Digital Learning

Increase your visual programming skills by using the online platform Scratch. You can create an account to save your progress.	A lot of these activities can be done in a garden, or if you can get to a remote forest location!	A website full of alternative online resources for all different subject areas.
Duolingo is a great platform for learning languages for free. This is available as a website or as an app.	Pawprint Badges has lots of free challenge packs and other downloads. There are many activities that can be completed indoors. The badges cost but are optional.	

Importance of Reading

During a period of remote learning, it is important to remember to spend some time reading. You may want to end the school day with a period of time for reading or use your break or lunch time to have a rest from the screen and read instead.

Students can use the recommended reading list for your reading age to help work out what is best for them to read. All students are also able to access The Leigh Academy Virtual Library if they are unable to access physical copies of books from home or during a period of remote learning.

IB Learner Profile
Effective Learning Checklist

Use this Learner Profile wellness checklist to ensure you stay on track with your timetabled lessons throughout the day when working remotely as well as engage with online learning as effectively as possible.

Learner Profile	Did you...	Tick when completed
Principled	Log into your Google classroom by 8:30am for tutor time or 9am for period lesson. Follow the timetabled lessons each day doing 4-5 hours of work?	☐
Thinker	Complete the tasks set by teachers by the deadlines?	☐
Balanced	Take breaks at appropriate times (morning and lunch) as per the school routine?	☐
Knowledgeable	Read from the recommended reading list for your reading age for at least 30 mins. Share your experience/findings from what you have read with somebody else in your household?	☐
Inquirer	Ask questions during your Google Meet lessons?	☐
Risk-taker	Try a piece of work even if you thought it seemed challenging?	☐
Caring	Check in with others, see if they are ok? Your family? Your friends? Yourself?	☐
Communicator	Shared what you have learned with someone? Discussed with your family? Shared successes with teachers?	☐
Open-minded	Considered a range of points of view in today's learning?	☐
Reflective	Thought back over your day of remote learning and reflected on what has gone well and what could be improved?	☐