



27 April 2020

Dear parents and carers,

School work to support learning from home

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

I recognise that this is a difficult time and we have all had to adjust to a new way of living in such a short space of time. When schools were closed on 20 March, one of our first priorities was to provide a work pack that would last a few weeks to work through from home. I recognise that this does not replace lessons in school and it is no substitute for the teaching of lessons in school.

As you will have seen on the news, there is no set date for schools to re-open. We will follow the Government's advice on this and communicate with you directly once there is any change in the current situation.

In the meantime, for the next few weeks our suggested approach is as follows:

- Completion of the first work pack provided when the school first closed.
- A second work pack to last the next few weeks. This will be posted to your home address this week using *Parcelforce* (and a copy of this letter will be sent with it).
- Weekly contact from school via our pastoral team to ensure that you and those at home are well and to provide any support for home learning that we can.
- Remote contact and support from subject specific teachers where you have identified any need through our weekly pastoral calls.
- Regular school updates through letters sent to you via text, on our school website, via Twitter and Facebook.
- Trialing of online lessons for Year 10 starting from week commencing 27 April.
- An example timetable of how time might be structured at home. You should adapt this to meet your own personal circumstances.

All the material in the work packs can also be found on the school website under the *Information* in the *Home Learning Resources* section. <https://www.thevalleyleadershipacademy.com/home-learning-resources/>



In order to access the online learning in due course you will receive a text message containing your son/daughter's email address and password details. It is very important that your child engages with online learning as much as possible.

In addition to all the resources, support and online lessons from school, there are additional resources and support you can access:

1. The BBC has launched are providing new lessons every day through **BBE Bitesize Daily**. You can find this at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>. These can also be accessed through BBC iPlayer.
2. There has also been a launch of **Oak National Academy** which Star teachers have been part of providing content for. This is a great and fresh resource of 180 lessons per week, including videos and resources. You can find this at <https://www.thenational.academy/>
3. **StarLine** is a national home learning helpline offering expert information and advice to parents and carers. Star has been central to launching this helpline. You can access this at <https://www.starline.org.uk/>

It is also important that your child stays active and takes regular exercise so please encourage them to take part in the daily PE lesson provided by Joe Wickes on YouTube at 9am every morning.

Art resources for pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 can be found through BBC Bitesize, which has a dedicated GCSE Art page: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z6hs34j>. For pupils in Years 7 and 8 relevant materials and resources can be found through BBC Bitesize at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z6f3cdm>.

I know that accessing the online lessons is not straightforward for everyone as it will depend on the access you have to broadband and the IT devices you have at home. The pastoral team has been checking on this as part of our weekly calls.

If there is anything more you would like us to be able to do to support you at this time please let us know through the weekly pastoral call, by ringing the school or via our school email info@thevalley.staracademies.org

I will in touch again in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Larkin
Executive Principal