

Morgan Academy Remote Learning Arrangements

Information for Parents and Carers - January 2021



Overview

All pupils return to learning from Monday 11th January. Pupils will engage with their class teachers via our digital tools Microsoft Teams.

In order for pupils to engage in digital learning they must have their GLOW login and password. Pupils should know this but if there are any problems contact their Guidance Teacher or the school office to have the password reset.

Microsoft Teams gives teachers the ability to make interactive and engaging lessons available for pupils – this is also accessed with a glow login. The digital tools we use are free to pupils and families and can be accessed from a desktop, laptop, phone or tablet app. Most gaming consoles also allow pupils to access these tools via a web browser.

Our teachers have enhanced their digital learning and teaching skills and have access to a wide array of supports and resources. We will continue to review our practice and will seek feedback from pupils and parents to help inform this.

While the expectation is that teachers will be available for pupils at prearranged and planned times please also remember that staff will be working from home and may have family responsibilities which means they cannot be available at some points in the day. We also understand that some pupils, for various reasons, may not be able to be online at times. The best advice for young people is to check into their teams regularly for updates and information related to arrangements for the week.

To provide the best possible learning experience we aim to:

- support the health and wellbeing of our pupils (including digital wellbeing – see note on screen time below)
- provide high quality resources, high quality interaction and high-quality support for all pupils
- support all classes to continue to progress through the curriculum
- provide targeted group or one-to-one support where required
- provide learners with regular and planned access to contact with their subject teachers
- maintain flexibility and autonomy for staff to select appropriate activities and tasks for their pupils
- ensure that parents and carers have all the information they require to support their children at home

Support for Pupils and Parents

Support and advice will always be available by contacting your child's Guidance Teacher via the school office on 01382 307000.

Education Scotland has created a website to help teachers, learners and parents / carers with remote learning. Access the site here.

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/>

Access to a digital device is essential for pupils. Families who may need assistance with this can contact us in confidence. We aim to respond positively to all requests for a provision of a device to allow online access.

Lockdown is not an easy time for all of us and feedback from young people in Scotland last year tells us that our pupils did best where they remained connected with the school, took regular physical exercise and tried to vary the activities they did throughout a day. We will be providing opportunities for all of this and are very aware of the health advice to avoid excessive screen time therefore will ensure the work provided does not require pupils to be on screen full-time.

We know that some pupils may find it difficult to engage at times – our highly skilled and supportive teachers and pastoral teams are here to help. The important thing is to keep engaged and reach out for help where it is needed.

Guidance teachers will maintain pastoral contact with their caseloads and are on hand to support parents too – call the school and they will get back to you as soon as possible. Our pupil support workers and additional support staff will also continue to work with children and families who already receive their support.

Online Lessons

- Online contact will involve a flexible blend of ‘live teaching’, pre-recorded content, interactive sessions and a range of independent tasks. Pupils will learn new content, consolidate previous learning, can ask questions and get feedback on their work. Our teachers know their pupils well and enjoy positive relationships with them – this will continue throughout the period of online learning.
- Learning may include activities such as research tasks, project work, presentations, lesson notes, diagrams, practical opportunities, discussions, links to useful websites and other activities that can be carried out away from a digital device.

Please see the separate document that highlights what your child can expect in each subject over the next few weeks.

- It is expected that learning will include provision of opportunities to consolidate, extend and enhance learning to take account of and meet the needs of learners and their families.
- Pupils can expect to have opportunities for online contact with their teachers to provide ongoing dialogue, reflection and feedback on their work.
- Learners should not engage in online learning for the entirety of the school day.

Optional Reading for Parents & Carers - Screen time

<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/healthy-screen-time-is-one-challenge-of-distance-learning>

<https://theconversation.com/uk/topics/screen-time-12193>

Pupils attending College

Pupils attending college will also be using Microsoft Teams, however access to this is slightly different from school. To access the College Systems Microsoft Teams, you should use your web browser rather than

downloading the App. You can access Microsoft Teams by going to: <https://teams.microsoft.com> and signing in with your College email address (student number followed by @dundeeandangus.ac.uk) and College password (the password you created at during registration). Help guides are available.

Expectations while working online

We have the normal high expectations of positive behaviour of our young people.

In line with our ICT Acceptable Use Policy, screen recording, filming, taking screen shots or photographing others in any lesson is prohibited.

Any behaviour that breaches this policy will be dealt with by your House Head.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will I contact my teachers?

You can continue to contact your teachers and Guidance teachers by email and TEAMS.

How can I keep focused?

We recommend that, where possible, you keep your routine for a normal school day - don't be tempted to sleep longer in the morning or go to bed later in the evening. Teachers will be available during the school day to provide you with any support that you need.

Please try to do some exercise outdoors every day, being mindful of its benefits for both our physical and mental health. Make sure that you take breaks from your screen throughout the day.

If you are finding it hard to stay focused, let your teachers know. You can contact your class teacher(s) or your Guidance teacher – whatever is best for you.

Who can I speak to if I am struggling or have a problem?

For pastoral matters, please contact your Guidance teacher in the first instance. If you would prefer to contact another member of staff, please remember that they will inform your Guidance teacher to be sure that they are supporting you in the right way.

Academic problems can be answered by your subject teachers.

Who can I speak to if there is a technological problem?

If you have a technological problem e.g. accessing GLOW or Teams, please contact the school office: 01382 307000. Guides to support accessing TEAMS and GLOW are available.

We aim to offer online support sessions for parents to help with digital learning and wellbeing support in the weeks ahead. We will be in touch with you shortly to gather your views and identify the resources and support you might require.

We aim to establish a drop-in in the building for any pupil who is having technical issues. More information on this will follow.

(For Senior Phase Pupils) Is online learning going to affect my estimated grades?

In the first instance, you will be learning online throughout January. We will update you, as soon as we can, about assessment plans for the remainder of this session. This will provide you with greater clarity on how we will estimate National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher grades.

What can I do to keep busy and motivated beyond lesson times?

Many of us have realised that the most difficult things about lockdown and online learning are the lack of human contact and the loss of normal routines and activities. We would therefore recommend the following:

- Stay in touch with your friends and family via FaceTime, etc
- Make time each day to spend time with family members at home, e.g. eating meals together, watching TV, going for a walk, etc.

How can I support my child with Additional Support Needs?

You can contact your child's Guidance teacher or member of the SfL Department.

Dundee City Council's Children and Families Service has a dedicated phone line for parents, carers and professionals to discuss any concerns you may have or to offer advice in relation to additional support needs and supporting learning. The advice line will be open from Monday 18th January. Please call 01382 433377 on Mondays from 10am till 12pm and Thursdays from 2pm till 4 pm.

What can I do to support my mental health?

Try to get outside every day. Exercise helps us stay healthy, but it's also important for maintaining positive mental health. If you are struggling with your mental health and need additional support beyond the activities above, don't forget that there are lots of options available to you:

- You can call your GP or CAMHS (if they already provide you with support)
- Childline – 0800 1111
- Samaritans - 116 123
- CAMHS resources: www.camhs-resources.co.uk
- Feeling Strong (Dundee) video chat helpline: www.feelingstrong.co.uk
- The Corner (Dundee) – to book an appointment to speak to someone, call 01382 206060 or contact them on Facebook/Twitter/Instagram @thecornerdundee

