



8 January 2021

Dear parents and carers of Year 9,

At George Spencer Academy we recognise that that each of our students will have their own unique experience of remote learning. Whether that be due to the device being used, sharing devices with others in the family or working on paper based resources. Wherever possible, we aim to deliver our planned curriculum and ensure that students' academic progress continues and that the change in learning does not present a disadvantage to their future aspirations. In year 9 we start the options process, whereby students choose what subjects to take in Year 10 and 11. This year is no different and this process will be taking place in the week commencing 18th January. Mr Allen is coordinating the process and will be in touch with you in the coming weeks, but you may want to initiate a conversation with your child regarding this.

We are running the same curriculum for those at home as those in school with all of the work being primarily online. If you requested paper based resources I hope you have received them by now, if not please contact me. Our primary remote learning offer is delivered through Google Classroom and this includes at least 4 hours of learning per day. We understand some of our students are still developing their independent learning and to sit in front of a computer for that long may be difficult. We ask for your support with remote learning by encouraging your child to follow their in-school timetable due to teachers being available via Google classroom or email while that lesson is taking place. This should enable your child to take breaks when work is not scheduled to be posted or completed. Core PE and Form Time Learning will not be delivered and we would urge students to spend time participating in some form of exercise (despite the weather) to assist with both their physical and mental health. Here are some useful links:

The Body Coach TV - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ>

Yoga for beginners - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7AYKMP6rOE&feature=emb_logo

Teachers are currently completing the following:

- setting assignments so that learners have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects
- teaching a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject
- providing frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher in the school or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos
- gauging how well learners are progressing through the curriculum, using questions and other suitable tasks

The Department for Education has launched an offer to increase mobile data allowances for children and young people. This scheme is open to any student who does not have access to a fixed broadband connection or cannot afford the additional data needed to access educational resources.

To request extra mobile data, it has to be done through school so please complete this google form and submit by **Wednesday 13th January**. <https://forms.gle/tXxe68cn1Jx94QNB7>

All the information about the scheme and what each network is offering can be found here: <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>

Our staff share the same love of learning as our students - they are here to support them with their learning and also wellbeing. We are continually improving and embedding our remote learning offer and it is under constant review to ensure all students receive the most appropriate offer for them. Learning Managers are planning to be in touch with all families over the coming weeks by telephone. If you have any concerns in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact them directly.

Kind regards,

Miss J Gordon
Vice Principal for Quality of Education