



Noel-Baker Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are well and looking after each other during these difficult times. I am writing to update parents regarding our adopted strategy moving forward on home learning.

What work should students complete?

The Noel Baker curriculum is well sequenced, meaning that knowledge is acquired and built upon as students move from topic to topic. Subjects and teachers will continue to set work as they have been doing which links to content previously studied. This is known as retrieval practice; by reviewing, revising and practicing what they have learned, they become better at it, meaning they are better able to understand subsequent content once schools re-open.

For this reason, it is imperative that students complete the work set by their teachers. Students will be set work to complete for every subject, every week with all tasks being recorded via Go 4 Schools to enable parents to track what students need to do. Please also be mindful that individual learning is not the same as learning in a class of 30 pupils and is highly unlikely to last the equivalent of an hour's lesson. I would expect most lessons to last about 30 minutes.

We also appreciate that many parents and students would like access to a virtual school environment which offers direct teacher instruction and a range of resources to use across a variety of subjects.

With this in mind, I would like to introduce you to the following virtual schools:

Oak National Academy

The first is called 'The Oak National Academy' which has been set up in conjunction with the government for schools across the country to use. It is free to use and daily lessons are provided as part of a weekly schedule for students to engage with and complete. The lessons are well structured and consist of quizzes, video instruction from expert teachers and tasks to support. They are of a very high quality, with a different curriculum provided for each year group. (They also cater for primary school year groups for those of you with younger children).

Please follow the link to access the website, it's very easy to navigate:

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

BBC Bitesize

The second virtual school platform is BBC Bitesize which has launched this week. Again, students can follow a daily/weekly schedule with lessons and videos often being led by some very familiar and famous faces. The content of these lessons will be backed up by new videos, practice tests, educational games and articles. In addition to this, BBC iPlayer and the Red Button service will host Bitesize Daily which are six different 20 minute shows, each designed to target a specific age group, from ages five to 14.

Please follow the link to access the website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Expectations

We know that students who don't complete work will fall significantly behind their peers both with school and compared to those across the country. We therefore expect students to engage with at least one of these platforms to help support the work being set by their teachers as part of their weekly and daily education provision.

Students and parents are free to choose which platform to use, it may be that you choose one over the other or use a combination of the two, as each platform offers a range of subjects, but they are not always the same.

Together, let us ensure that our students are not adversely affected any more than they need to be by the closure of the school.

Thank you and kind regards



Simon Leach
Deputy Head Teacher