

Guidance to parents and carers to support learners to stay safe and stay learning (January 2021)

This year's changing circumstances have required great flexibility and resilience as learning moves from home to school and back again. We are grateful to you for supporting your child's learning offline or online at this difficult time. Over the next few weeks, we will set work for your child to do, maintain contact and provide you with help along the way. Any encouragement and support you offer will be very helpful, but you are not being asked to be a teacher. We hope that this leaflet will provide you with some useful information about the way in which your child is currently being asked to learn.

Definitions

Blended Learning: An approach that combines face to face and distance learning experiences. Face to face learning and distance learning should complement each other and should be driven by a single curriculum.

Remote Learning: This means the same as Distance Learning.

Face to Face Learning: Refers to the learning your child(ren) will receive when they are inside an educational setting.

Synchronous Learning:

Teachers and learners attend a session/lesson at the same time. This can take place face to face or online.

Online learning: Is education that takes place over the Internet. It is often referred to as "e- learning" among other terms. However, online learning is just one type of 'distance learning'.

Asynchronous Learning:

Teachers provide learning materials (may include online videos, audio clips and presentations) which can be accessed by the learner in their own time.

Different approaches to delivering learning

It is important to note that schools and settings will take different approaches to delivering learning during this period. One model of delivery will not suit all schools or all learners and there are many forms of learning that will be undertaken during this period. It is not helpful to compare how one school approaches distance learning to another as the contexts will vary.

Your child(ren) will be in receipt of a variety of methods to engage them in their learning. This may include:

- Pre-recorded material from staff to explain and set the scene for learning (asynchronous).
- Some lessons may be delivered via live streaming (synchronous). The mechanism the school uses this is Google Meet. This can be accessed on any internet enabled device including mobile phones. Please make sure that the relevant App is downloaded if using a mobile device, and that you are logged on via the school Gmail username.
- Learning tasks which may need completing online, in books, reading books or creatively (building models etc).
- Shared learning where learners may be able to learn with their peers.
- Teachers may engage with your child(ren) through a messaging function within their learning platform, for example, Google Classroom, to support them with their learning. At Caerleon this can be via the stream element of Google Classroom, or via a Meet Chat function. The school Gmail system will also be used by teachers to communicate with students directly if needed to support learning.
- Independent activities, for example: researching a subject or topic, completing a practice test or assessment, watching a TV programme for example, BBC have a range of programmes on offer to assist our teachers deliver learning.
- Your child(ren) may be asked to attend an online check in session which may referred to as Form or Tutor time for example. At Caerleon this check in happens three times a week on a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for all those in KS3 and KS4.
- Engage in physical activities, for example: Joe Wicks fitness sessions, going for a local walk, outdoor play (in line with Government Guidance). In addition, Caerleon has a PE Google Classroom with daily/weekly challenges for all students.
- Engage in learning sessions delivered by partnership organisations, for example, schools within the cluster, colleges and universities. Within Caerleon we are using this both through our enrichment and Post 16 support, as well as our Careers opportunities.

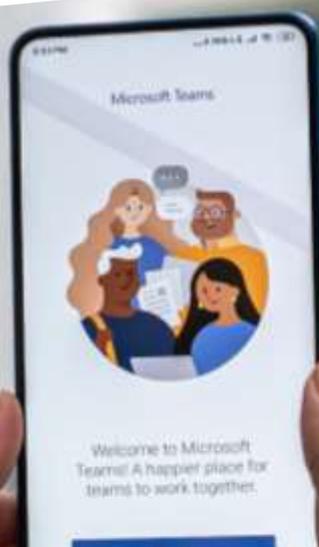


What can you expect from us?

1. Your children's teacher will set work with clear guidance and where appropriate support, for your child(ren) to complete and return their completed work to school for marking/feedback. This will be explained to them in each Topic posts as appropriate.
2. Your child may receive work directly from their school and indicate when your child needs to engage in learning and when to complete learning tasks independently.
3. We will provide work in paper format where there is no access to internet, hardware, revision textbooks or regular stationary (paper, pens etc.). At Caerleon the device surveys have allowed us to identify those where this facility is needed in order to distribute accordingly.
4. Our communication about distance learning to parents/carers will be simple and accessible to all. At Caerleon this includes regular communication and emails to students directly with pertinent school wide messages.
5. We will continue to communicate with you using text messages, emails, school website, Google Classrooms.
6. We will regularly ask you as parents/carers to provide views on our learning provision and will continue to refine this giving consideration to your feedback. At Caerleon we have found this particularly useful, and we will be sending our next survey on the 5th February.

How you can help us

1. It is important that you contact us if you have any questions, queries or concerns.
2. Try to avoid comparing the approaches to learning that other children are receiving within other classes or within other schools. As a school we are trying hard to ensure that we provide the most appropriate approaches to learning that meet the needs of your child and the learning objectives of each activity. It is likely that these will be varied, as there is no 'best way' or 'one size fits all' when it comes to teaching in this way.
3. Due to the on-going challenges COVID present we are working collaboratively with partner schools to ensure your child(ren) remain learning. Therefore, there may be occasions when your child will receive Distance Learning from another teacher within their school.



How we will support learners in examination year groups

The set of expectations expressed below applies specifically at times when learners in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 are required to learn remotely, and for the period of the spring term until half term. These expectations will be reviewed in February.

- Learners will receive contact from us in support of learning, motivation and well-being. We expect them to receive meaningful learning in line with their timetable. This will be an engaging combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning and support, using digital and non-digital means as appropriate to the group and the subject.
- Learning resources provided by us will enable learners to progress as closely as possible to how they would have progressed if they were in class.
- Resources and activities will reference widely available content from sources including Hwb, WJEC, BBC, S4C and Universities.
- We will continue to support digitally excluded learners in accessing remote learning opportunities by distributing school devices with appropriate end user agreements.
- We will continue to record learners' engagement with our remote learning offer.

