



A closer look at distance learning

Online learning is already a well-established part of teaching and learning at Nishkam High School, and although absence from school can be challenging for students and staff alike, Nishkam's teachers are able to provide a high-quality learning experience in the digital classroom.

How can parents help?

Learning remotely at home does pose some evident challenges, and some students will understandably find it harder to adapt to this mode of working than others. The support of parents/guardians is crucial in helping to create an effective working environment and routine at home. Of course, we are not yet clear about a possible 'return' date and we Remember, students in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 already have a wealth of information that they can revise thoroughly. Many also have revision guide books and there are a whole range of on-line products available to supplement their studies. Please encourage your child if he/she is in either years 11 or 13 to continue to revise. We have had some guidance from central government about examinations but in these extraordinary times, guidance can change!!! Pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 will also have end of year examinations whenever they return to school; they, too, can spend time revising the content, knowledge and skills covered during the academic year to date. **Pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 also have knowledge organisers to supplement their studies.** On top of that, it is always useful for all students to read good literature!

What kinds of things has Nishkam been doing in an online capacity?

Training in the effective use of key hardware and software applications is a central element of the continuous professional development programme for all of our staff, and recent events have provided an opportunity for many staff to undergo further training to ensure that they are as prepared as possible to deliver their lessons to students at home.

Our virtual learning environments are well established and frequently used by students and staff. Edmodo is actively used on a day-to-day basis by many members of our school, teachers actively share lesson resources, assessment materials and homework activities. In addition to



Edmodo, Seneca is an extremely popular platform for independent learning, with many GCSE and A level subjects fully resourced. Furthermore, certain subjects have their own specific online learning platforms, including: Mr Frost (Maths at KS3/4), Uplearn (Economics at KS5) and OneNote (Computer Science KS3/4)

How do you make sure online lessons maintain the highest degree of quality?

We have a wide range of tools at our disposal which help our teachers to deliver online lessons that are fresh and engaging. Situations of adversity can often provide opportunities, too. By necessitating the provision of online learning, the COVID-19 situation has undoubtedly provided an opportunity to enhance the digital skillset of staff and students alike and provided added impetus and great ideas in terms of how we can use EdTech (technology in education) effectively and creatively.

Quarantine can be lonely; how do we ensure students' learning is not done in isolation?

Social interaction with friends and classmates is important. Nishkam's collaborative tools and platforms such as Edmodo encourage our students to communicate, interact, and work together. Students can be in regular contact with teachers through our communication platforms and receive feedback, guidance and commentary.

Joining Zoom, our online lesson conferencing platform (further details below), gives the possibility of students participating in lessons remotely; it also allows staff to 'record' sessions that can be viewed at any time by students.

In addition to maintaining the academic provision, we will also try to keep abreast of wellbeing. Teachers and our pastoral team will endeavour to "check-in" with students via Edmodo or by phone.