



12th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are safe and well as we continue through another national lockdown. It has only been a week since I wrote to you last and yet much has changed. As a school, we arrived back on January 4th with the information that we needed to prepare to become a mass testing centre for all of our pupils and staff; twenty-four hours later, that instruction was off the agenda and we were told, instead, to place all learning on-line.

During the whole Covid-19 period, we have kept up to date with research concerning the most effective methods of deploying remote learning. The Education Endowment Foundation has recently released a summary of research which highlights the fact that a blended approach to remote learning has the potential to be most effective. They state that so long as the quality of teaching is good, a mixture of live lessons, recorded lessons and an opportunity for pupils to develop their independence and resilience by completing work on their own will enable them to make progress.

With that in mind, I wish to update you on our plans for remote learning now that we know that this lockdown will be until at least the end of February. The table below reflects our belief that blended learning is the most judicious use of our resources and also takes into account the circumstances that many of our families find themselves in with regards to the sharing of devices across busy households.

Year Group	Date	Remote Learning
Year 7	11 th -15 th Jan	Work will be posted for pupils to complete independently
	18 th Jan onwards	A combination of pre-recorded lessons by subject specialists and work posted for pupils to complete independently. A schedule for recorded lessons is attached to this letter
Year 8	11 th -15 th Jan	Work will be posted for pupils to complete independently
	18 th Jan onwards	A combination of pre-recorded lessons by subject specialists and work posted for pupils to complete independently. A schedule for recorded lessons is attached to this letter
Year 9	11 th -15 th Jan	Work will be posted for pupils to complete independently
	18 th Jan onwards	A combination of pre-recorded lessons by subject specialists and work posted for pupils to complete independently. A schedule for recorded lessons is attached to this letter
Year 10	11 th -15 th Jan	Recorded lessons
	18 th Jan onwards	A combination of live lessons*, recorded lessons and work posted for pupils to complete independently
Year 11	11 th Jan onwards	A combination of live lessons*, recorded lessons and work posted for pupils to complete independently



Year 12	11 th Jan onwards	A combination of live lessons*, recorded lessons and work posted for pupils to complete independently
Year 13	11 th Jan onwards	A combination of live lessons*, recorded lessons and work posted for pupils to complete independently.

(*Pupils will not be able to participate in live lessons if consent has not been given. Please ensure you give your consent as soon as possible if you wish for your child to take part in live lessons with their teachers by clicking on the link: <https://tinyurl.com/y4hvpq8l>)

All pupils should aim to follow their usual timetable as much as possible which will have a positive impact on both their learning and their wellbeing.

As always, we are here to support you as best we can. If you have any concerns regarding remote learning, or any other issue, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing the school at enquiries.nhsb@nishkamschools.org or speaking to your child's Head of Year by calling the school on 0121 348 7660. Furthermore, we will issue a questionnaire to all parents in due course to ascertain your opinion on remote learning. Can I remind all parents that the school is endeavouring to move towards being paper-free and have activated 'My Child At School' which will enable us to communicate with you regularly. If you have yet to log on or install the app, or have not received the email with the link to do so, please let us know.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs E. Wilks
Vice Principal, Learning and Teaching

Key Stage 3 Schedule for Recorded Lessons

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 7	English Computing/Art /Music* RE	Maths History PE	Science English Drama	Geography Maths Food	MFL Science
Year 8	Maths History Geography	English Computing/Art /Music* PE	Maths RE Drama	MFL Science Food	Science English
Year 9	Science MFL RE Computing/Art /Music*	Science English PE	Maths History Drama	English Computing Food	Geography Maths

*Computing/Art/Music recorded lessons will be posted according to the schedule but can be completed at any point during the week.

If your child is not due to have a particular subject on the day it is scheduled for, they can simply access it when they would usually have it on their timetable. Lessons will be posted on the days above.