



23 April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, we want to say a big thank you for supporting your child with completing distance learning at this challenging time. We appreciate that many parents have found this difficult alongside working from home themselves and managing other children. We stress that 'any distance learning is better than no distance learning' and thank you for everything that you are doing.

With lockdown and school closures showing no sign of letting up, we have reviewed and revised our approach to distance learning for students in Year 7 – Year 10. We have learnt a few lessons over the last few weeks, and are going to make some changes to our approach to hopefully make distance learning more manageable and effective for students, parents and teachers.

From Monday 27th April, we would like students to prioritise distance learning in the core subjects: English, Maths and Science. In these subjects, distance learning will be set through a new online platform, BeReady, accessible at: <https://learn.bereadygroup.org/login>. The platform can be accessed on any computer, tablet or smartphone with internet access.

Students will shortly be sent login details to their school email address. Once logged in, students will see a home screen which is personalised to our school, with tiles for their English, Maths and Science lessons for the week ahead.

With effect from Monday, students will be assigned 4 lessons per week in each of the core subjects (English, Maths and Science). The lessons mostly consist of a starter quiz, an instructional video with tasks for the students to complete as they watch, pausing the video if necessary, and an 'exit ticket' task at the end to assess their understanding. Each lesson will take around 30 - 45 minutes to complete, and can be viewed on a mobile phone or tablet. We ask that students prioritise completing these lessons and parents do the best they can to support this. If you are using a shared work area (such as the dining room table) you might want your child to use headphones as the videos will talk your child through the lesson to help them understand.

In addition to the above, teachers of subjects other than English, Maths and Science will continue to set distance learning using ClassCharts and Google Classroom. We encourage students to try and complete this work but recognise that this practically is not possible for all families, and in which case, we just ask that you do the best you can.

Find below a simple table, summarising how distance learning will be set for each subject area moving forwards.

Subject	Distance Learning set by the school	Additional self-directed distance learning resources
English	4x lessons per week set on BeReady https://learn.bereadygroup.org/login	KS3 - Tassomai KS4 - GCSEPod
Maths	4x lessons per week set on BeReady. https://learn.bereadygroup.org/login	MyMaths



Science	4x lessons per week set on BeReady. https://learn.bereadygroup.org/login	Tassomai
All other subjects	Lessons set by EPCS teachers via ClassCharts and Google Classroom.	BBC Bitesize - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize Oak National Academy https://www.thenational.academy GCSEPod (KS4) https://www.gcsepod.com/

Below this letter, I have attached a list of frequently asked questions to provide further details on our approach to distance learning. We will continue to review and fine-tune our approach and will write to you detailing any further changes we intend making in the future.

If you have any feedback on our revised approach we would very much like to hear it - please email info@epschool.org. If you require support with distance learning, please contact your child's tutor or the subject teacher in question by email in the first instance.

Many thanks for your continued efforts and the excellent support you are providing for your children at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Hall
Deputy Headteacher

Distance Learning - Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Where should my child look to access their distance learning?

A. As of Monday 27th April, for core subjects, students should go to <https://learn.bereadygroup.org/login>. Students will be set 4 lessons of English, Maths and Science per week. For all other subjects, they should go to ClassCharts.

Q. In an ideal world, how would you suggest my child plans their distance learning?

A. The below represents an ideal scenario:

	9.00 - 9.45	9.45 - 10.30	10.30 - 11.00	11.00 - 11.45	11.45 - 12.30	12.30 - 1.30	1.30 - 3.00
Mon	English lesson 1 on BeReady	Maths lesson 1 on BeReady	Break	Science lesson 1 on BeReady	Complete work for 1x non-core subject	Lunch	Complete work for 2x non-core subjects
Tue	English lesson 2 on BeReady	Maths lesson 2 on BeReady	Break	Science lesson 2 on BeReady	Complete work for 1x non-core subject	Lunch	Complete work for 2x non-core subjects
Wed	English lesson 3 on BeReady	Maths lesson 3 on BeReady	Break	Science lesson 3 on BeReady	Complete work for 1x non-core subject	Lunch	Complete work for 2x non-core subjects
Thur	English lesson 4 on BeReady	Maths lesson 4 on BeReady	Break	Science lesson 4 on BeReady	Complete work for 1x non-core subject	Lunch	Complete work for 2x non-core subjects
Fri	Catch up on any work missed earlier in the week. If all is completed, work on self-directed distance learning using Tassomai, GCSEPod, MyMaths etc.						

Q. The above timetable is unrealistic given my family's circumstances - my child isn't going to be able to get that much work done. What should we prioritise?

A. We appreciate that circumstances are challenging at present, and ask that families simply do the best they can. Please prioritise your child completing the BeReady lessons in English, Maths and Science each week.

Q. How can I best support my child with their distance learning?

A. We'd encourage you to design a schedule for each week for your child to follow. Students respond well to structure, and will be better if they know what they are doing, and when. Also, try to set aside a space in which they can work which is free from distractions. Finally, encourage them to stay in regular contact with their teachers by email.

Q. My child doesn't have access to a computer, or we are sharing one computer between several children. What should we do?

A. One of the main reasons we have chosen to use BeReady to set lessons in Maths, English and Science is because it works perfectly when accessed from a mobile phone or tablet - a computer is not

needed. In other subjects, teachers have also been asked to try and set work which is flexible, and could be done on paper if a child is not able to access a computer. In the very small number of instances where students do not have access to a mobile phone with web connection, please contact your child's Head of Year, who will arrange for alternative paper based work to be sent to you.

Q. My child hasn't managed to complete all of the work set by one of their subject teachers. Will they be sanctioned when they return to school?

A. We ask that parents and students do the best they can to keep up with the distance learning being set, but recognise that the current situation is very challenging. No child will be sanctioned for having not completed distance learning when we return to school. We are instead encouraging students, and praising those that are invested and are sharing work regularly with their teachers. Moving forwards, whilst we are distance learning, we will exclusively be awarding positive points on ClassCharts to students who have been working hard at home, not awarding negatives.

Q. There's no work set for a particular subject. What should I do?

A. The teachers are doing the best they can with setting work - but everyone needs to understand that circumstances are challenging. If work is not set, encourage your child to undertake self-directed learning using BBC Bitesize or Oak National Academy. If your child repeatedly is not being set work by a particular subject, please contact the teacher by email.

Q. Can students contact their teachers if they need help?

A. We actively encourage students to stay in regular contact with their teachers and tutor by email. The teachers are there to help, and if there is anything your child is struggling with or doesn't understand, encourage them to email their teacher to ask. It is also nice to hear what you've all been up to! Teachers will endeavour to respond to all emails from students and parents within 48 hours.

Q. How can my child stay in touch with their Head of Year?

A. Heads of Year are sending bi-weekly emails to the students in their year groups, which are designed to be supportive and motivating. Students are encouraged to respond to these emails and also to share examples of the distance learning they have been completing. We will include some good examples of student work in our 'Highlights from EPCS during COVID-19', which we will be issuing fortnightly whilst we are in lockdown.

Stay safe and look after yourselves at this challenging time. We are very grateful for your support.