

ALEC REED ACADEMY



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Principal and CEO: Allison Moise-Dixon

11th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Like many of you, I suspect, I have recently been thinking a lot about the idea of 'time' - in all sorts of ways. Time lost and time gained; how strangely time behaves when 'normal' routine is suddenly changed; times from the past that are missed and times to look forward to.

As teachers, we have also thought about the idea of 'time' in response to what our students tell us. With many of us being teachers and also parents who have had to home-school, we know that living-room time and classroom time are not quite the same thing. The pace is different; the distractions are different; the access to resources is different. We have also heard from some of our students that the amount of work set has been overwhelming to some families. In response to this, we have reviewed our policy for setting home learning tasks.

From Monday 15 June, subject areas will apply a more consistent approach to setting home learning tasks:

- **One-hour tasks will be set daily on ClassCharts**, according to the schedule below (as opposed to some departments using booklets or posting large chunks of work in less frequent intervals). The advantage is that your child will see – each morning – the tasks that are set for that particular day. They will therefore have a list to tick off, giving them a more structured approach to their learning. It also eliminates the issue some of your children have brought to our attention – which is that ClassCharts only allows for five uploads per post.
- **We will aim to set four hours of work per day** (as opposed to the previous five hours) to make each day's work more manageable. There will, however, be additional 'If you have time' tasks for those who want to push themselves a little further.
- **Subject areas will aim to provide more variety** in an attempt to cut down on 'screen time'.

It is wonderful to see how many of our students log into ClassCharts to access their work. If they are able to, they should return their work by posting a picture of it to ClassCharts. This allows teachers to check their work and give them feedback. If there are any challenges in making this happen, please contact your child's SaFE worker or Head of Year so that we can find solutions. As time goes by, it may become harder, but it is important that students keep engaging with their learning.

Finally – as always – while academic learning is important, it is equally important to take care of our mental health and our emotional well-being. If your child feels worried or anxious about their work (or about anything else), please let us know. Just because we are not in the same vicinity at the moment, it does not diminish in any way how much we care about your child.

On the next page, you will find the new home-learning schedule. Please share this with your child (perhaps stick it on the fridge) to help them prepare for what work to expect each day.

All my best for now

Erika Théron
Assistant Principal: Teaching and Learning

'The Collins PiXL Award for Outstanding Progress' National Award Winners 2014



Home Learning Schedule | Start 15 June 2020

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 7 & 8	English Maths DT Art	Science History Geography RS	English Maths Drama Music	Science History Geography PE	English Maths ICT French / Spanish PSHE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 9	English Maths Science (Triple Group Only) Spanish / French Geography History	Science RS Business Music Drama Computer Studies	English Maths Spanish / French Art & Des / Textiles / Photography DT PSHE	Science Maths PE (Gen & BTech / GCSE) Business Geography History	English Maths Travel & Tourism H&SC Geography History

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 10	English Maths Science (Triple Group Only) Spanish / French Geography History	Science RS Business Music Drama Computer Studies	English Maths Citizenship Art & Des / Graphics / Photography DT H&SC	Science Maths PE (Gen & BTech / GCSE) Business Geography History	English Maths Spanish / French Geography History