



# Remote Learning – Year 8

## Urmston Grammar

January 2021

Dear Year 8 Students,

I hope you are all in good health and have had a productive week – it wasn't quite the start we had anticipated for the Spring term.

We are all coming to terms with the news that the country has been plunged into another lockdown, but I think that we all understand that we are doing this to try to keep everyone safe. Whilst the number of Covid-19 cases have risen significantly over the last few weeks, we must remember that we now have two vaccines which are being given to the most vulnerable members of our country. We have to remember that this will get better, even if the next few weeks present us with some challenges.

During the last lockdown period, and during periods of self-isolation, we have all been able to learn some valuable lessons; these will be incredibly important as we continue to move forward.

- The whole school community has gone through a steep learning curve; both staff and students have shown that that they can be flexible and adaptable.
- Students and staff have mastered new online platforms and use them more effectively. We are now all much more confident with using Show My Homework and MS Teams.
- Your teachers have had to think creatively about how they present and assess work for students remotely; they have developed lots of new skills.
- The remote learning process has encouraged independence and self-reliance; many students and staff have been shown that they are more resilient than they thought.

The next few weeks will, once again, give you an opportunity to display that resilience; you will be able show that you are independent and proactive. It is important that you maintain a positive mindset to direct your own learning and keep motivated.

But remember, you don't have to do this on your own; each of your lessons will have some interactive element. Your teachers will be available to support you by delivering live lesson through MS Teams, through pre-recorded lessons, with powerpoints that have audio instructions or through lessons which feature a blend of these different media.

Please follow the timetable for your year group, which is shown below.

Each day will start with a registration period at 8:30 am with your form tutor on MS Teams; this will help you to keep to a routine, give your day a clear structure and allow you to continue learning.

You will notice that there are four subject lessons each day; the independent learning slot will allow you to catch up with any work, complete homework and extension tasks or carry out some additional independent learning.

	Year 8				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.30	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
8.45	English	PE	Independent	Art/Tech	Pastoral/PSE
9.50	Independent	German	Music	Science	English
Break					
11.10	Science	Maths	English	independent	Maths
12.15	Drama	Science	RE	Geography	French
Lunch					
14.15	Art/Tech	Independent	Maths	History	Independent

As always, all instructions for lessons will be communicated through Show My Homework. You must check this each day, so that you are able to keep on track. Check your emails regularly as we will use this as a regular form of contact.

Make sure you are adding completed work to exercise books and folders and keep this in an organised safe place; when you do return to school, we will need to build on the work that you have done independently. Your teachers will ask you to email work to them, upload it on SMH or submit it via MS Teams so that they can mark it and provide you with some feedback.

You have a timetabled PE lesson, but we suggest that you do try to do some form of exercise each day as this will also help to keep your mind and body active (the PE department will be suggesting some additional ideas).

When you are in school, we encourage you to read; make this as part of your daily routine as well. There are links to lots of books, journals and articles on the school website <https://www.urmstongrammar.org.uk/reading-list/>

Remember that you may be working remotely, but we are all still part of the Urmston Grammar community and we are only a click away. So, if you do need us please use email to contact tutors, individual teachers or the school office.

Look after yourselves and your families – be kind to each other and be kind to yourselves.

Keep safe and we look forward to welcoming you back as soon as we possibly can.

Yours faithfully,



R S Wall on behalf of all your teachers and the support staff of Urmston Grammar.