



Urmston Grammar Supporting structured learning at home

April/May 2020



Dear Students,

You have now had several weeks in lockdown and we have no clear indicators when the social isolation guidelines will be reviewed.

As I am sure you can imagine the last few weeks have been a steep learning curve for all of us.

You are having to learn to work more independently at home without the direct supervision of your teachers; you are having to keep yourselves motivated.

Parents or carers will be juggling the different demands of family life with work and understanding some of the challenges of home-schooling.

Urmston Grammar teachers and support staff are trying to adapt to working remotely, coming into school to supervise the children of key workers and managing the demands of their own homes and families.

I hope that you are able to work effectively at home without the direct supervision of your teachers. If you have found it challenging, don't worry: you are not alone.

All over the country (and the world) families are having to deal with their 'new normal' and you may have found that some of the challenges include:

- having to share devices and WiFi with other family members;
- finding it difficult to find a quiet place to work;
- establishing a routine of waking and sleeping;
- having less physical contact with people who matter to you – grandparents, friends, aunts, uncles, cousins;
- having fewer opportunities to have your own personal space;
- having to switch between different digital platforms to access work;
- having to be self-motivated, more self-sufficient and more independent.

For some of you this will be even more challenging as you may have family members who are key workers and/or friends and family who have been affected by Covid-19.

Whatever the circumstances and challenges, I hope you have been able to maintain a connection with your school. You should be in contact with teachers, your classmates and your friends from school each day – none of you should be feeling isolated or alone. If you are finding it difficult, remember we are here for you – we are only an email away.

As I have said to you previously it is impossible for us to replicate all your lessons at home, but your education is continuing.

- All teachers are adding resources to 'Show My Homework' (SMH).
- Some teachers are adding resources to the shared drive.
- Some teachers are emailing work and feedback directly to you.
- Some teachers are directing you to work on specific websites.
- Some teachers are teaching and/or providing feedback via podcasts.
- Some teachers are providing presentations and are using voice over commentary.
- Some teachers are creating and sharing You Tube clips.
- Some teachers are delivering virtual lessons through MS Teams.

From 1st May, we intend to deliver more virtual lessons, but we will introduce this slowly while your teachers develop their skills and experience and you acclimatise to another change in the learning environment. I will circulate more information about this to you later in the week.

Please continue to follow the timetable for your year group and focus on the subject that is highlighted. You should be spending approximately 45-50 minutes on the named subject during each time slot.

- For Years 7-9 there are 3 subject slots; you should be working for approximately 2.5 - 3 hours each day.
- For Year 10 students there are 6 subject slots; you should be working for approximately 4-5 hours each day.

During a specified subject time slot, look at the resources your teacher has added to SMH and/or the shared drive and complete the work set. Some of this may be work online, some might need you to use the internet for research, but some will also be work that you do away from the computer screen.

Year 12 - we hope you have been able to structure your own learning and that this will continue. You should be working for approximately 6 hours each day. If you do need some extra support with structuring your learning, please email your subject teacher or sixth form mentor.

Make sure you are all adding completed work to exercise book and folders and keep these in an organised safe place; when you do return to school we will need to build on the work that you have done independently. Many of your teachers will ask you to email work to them, so that they can mark it and provide you with some feedback.

Remember it is important that you **check these resources and your emails each day**, so that you are able to keep on track. At this stage all of you should know how to access resources. If you do get stuck, before you email school, try and help yourself; there are help guides at <https://www.urmstongrammar.org.uk/student-remote-working/>. Alternatively contact one of your peers.


- You need to spend approximately 45 minutes each day doing some form of exercise. (The PE department will be suggesting some ideas but remember to follow the government's guidance for where you can go outside.)
- It is also important for you all to spend time reading each day; this could be fiction or non-fiction. Remember there are links to lots of books, journals and articles on the school website <https://www.urmstongrammar.org.uk/reading-list/>

I know some of you have already taken up my challenge to get more creative. You have already started a new indoor hobby, picked up that musical instrument, practised your baking, started that new language, done some gardening. If you haven't got round to it yet, then you still have time. This will hopefully never happen again – when people ask you what **you** did during 'The Lockdown of 2020', it's important that you show that you used your time productively. (You don't want to end up saying that you slept through the whole thing!)

We may be working remotely, but we are still part of the Urmston Grammar community, look after yourselves and your families – take time to enjoy each other’s company. Be kind to each other and to yourselves.

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

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R S Wall". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

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

Timetables for Years 7, 8 and 9

Year	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday		
7	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
	08:30	11:30	13:30	08:30	11:30	13:30	08:30	11:30	13:30	08:30	11:30	13:30	08:30	11:30	13:30
	MFL	Geog	English	History	Maths	MFL	Science	RE	Art/Tech	Drama	English	Art/Tech	Maths	Science	Music
	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday		
8	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
	10:00	12:00	14:00	10:00	12:00	14:00	10:00	12:00	14:00	10:00	12:00	14:00	10:00	12:00	14:00
	History	Maths	MFL	Science	RE	Art/Tech	Drama	English	Art/Tech	Maths	Science	Music	MFL	Geog	English
	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday		
9	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
	09:00	11:00	13:00	09:00	11:00	13:00	09:00	11:00	13:00	09:00	11:00	13:00	09:00	11:00	13:00
	Science	RE	Art/Tech	Drama	English	Art/Tech	Maths	Science	Music	MFL	Geog	English	History	Maths	MFL

Timetables for Year 10

	Monday						Tuesday					
Years 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
	08:30	10:00	11:30	13:00	14:30	16:00	08:30	10:00	11:30	13:00	14:30	16:00
	English	Maths	Science -Biol	MFL	Humanities or Science	Option A	Science -Chem	English	Option B	MFL	Maths	Option A

	Wednesday						Thursday					
Years 10 and 11	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
	08:30	10:00	11:30	13:00	14:30	16:00	08:30	10:00	11:30	13:00	14:30	16:00
	Humanities or Science	Option B	English	MFL	Science - Phys	Maths	Maths	Option B	Option A	English	MFL	Humanities or Science

	Friday					
Years 10 and 11	1	2	3	4	5	6
	08:30	10:00	11:30	13:00	14:30	16:00
	Option A	Option B	Maths	Humanities or Science	English	MFL

Y10 Option A
Music
Business Studies
IT
GCSE PE
Food Tech
Art
Photography
History
Geography
RS

Y10 Option B
Drama
IT
Computer studies
Food tech
Design Tech
French
Geography
History
Business Studies

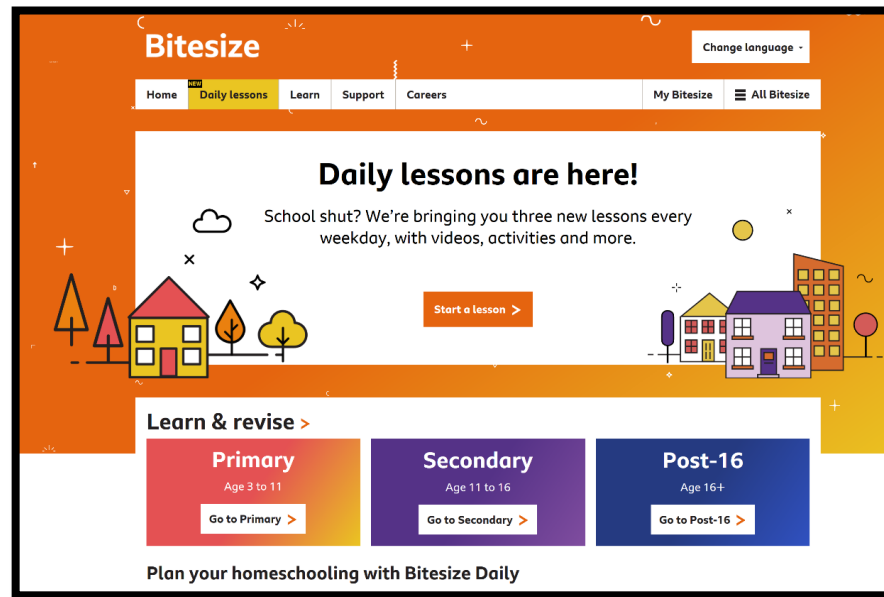
Y10 Humanities or Science
Geography
History
Business Studies
RS
Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Other platforms that you can use to support independent learning.

BBC Bitesize

Bitesize has 150 new lessons every week to keep you on track with your learning. You will find daily lessons for home-schooling in Maths and English for every year group, as well as regular lessons in Science, History, Geography and more.

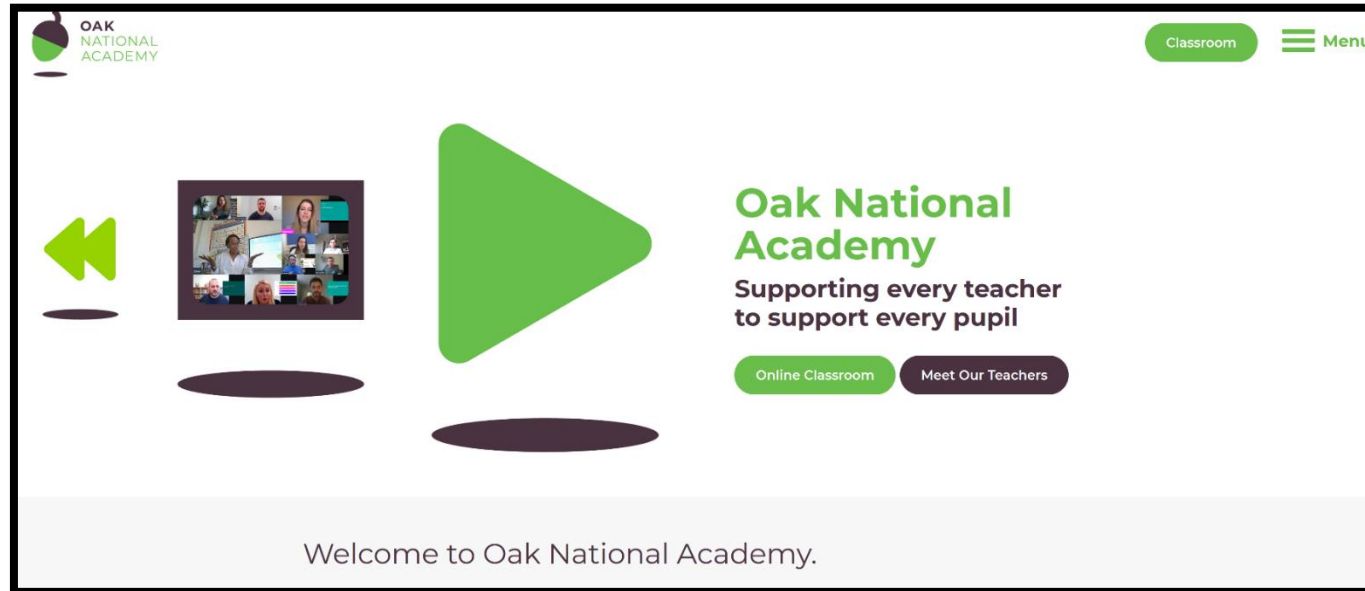
The home-schooling lessons have been created with teachers and other educational experts. They feature a mix of videos, animations, practice activities, quizzes and games. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>.



Your teacher may direct you to these lessons as part of the timetable or you can use them to get some different help on a topic.

Oak National Academy

Your teachers may refer you to resources on this site. <https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>.



Oak National Academy is a new collection of high-quality lessons and online resources. It is backed by the Government and has been created in response to the coronavirus lockdown.

Their online classroom offers free access to great teachers, delivering video lessons, quizzes and worksheets. All of the lessons are ordered so students can learn along a clear plan. New lessons and resources will be added each week. **Please use this site if you are directed to it by your teacher.** You cannot use it instead of the work that your teachers set, however, it may supplement your understanding.

Oak National Academy will fit alongside other resources such as BBC Bitesize to offer a structure for the day for children until schools fully reopen.