



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
James McNamara BA(Hons); NPQH

Wirksworth Road, Duffield, Belper: DE56 4GS
Tel: (01332) 840645 Fax: (01332) 841871
Web: www.ecclesbourne.org.uk
email: info@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE | Silver



November 2020

RE: Independent study periods

Dear Parent / Carer,

Firstly, I would like to thank our Sixth Form students for the way they have adjusted to our new routines and for the purposeful start they have made to their studies.

Although our priority has been to ensure the safety of our students and staff, we have strived to maintain some normality to allow our students to benefit from continuous support from their peers, tutors and teachers.

However, it is clear that with increasing levels of transmission in the community we need to review our arrangements. We have decided to offer our students the option to study at home during their independent study periods starting on Monday 9th November 2020.

Although we have appropriate study space in school, it is important that if your son / daughter wishes to study at home in their independent study periods, they should be aware of the school's expectations:

- a) Year 13 students must continue to work with their Tutor on their post 18 plans. 'Unifrog' will allow Year 13 students to complete their personal statements / cover letters and remotely request their references.
- b) If they are well and they are not self-isolating, the student must attend **all** timetabled lessons.
- c) Arrive to timetabled lessons promptly.
- d) Students should maintain the highest levels of focus and commitment.
- e) If a student has a timetabled lesson period 1 (9:25am) they should arrive at school for 8:40am. This will maintain vital contact with their tutor and ensure that they do not mix with other 'bubbles'.
- f) Students are expected to adhere to their adjusted study programme. If students wish to amend their independent study plans after Monday 9th November, this should be negotiated with the Head of Year.
- g) Students are only permitted to leave the school site during agreed times.
- h) If a student wishes to return home for lunch before returning for period 4 (1:30pm) this must be agreed with the Head of Year.
- i) The student should ideally attend at least one assembly per week - these are on Monday and Friday mornings.
- j) The student must attend all special assemblies and talks / lectures which will override home study leave. The Sixth Form Office will communicate these events to students / parents.
- k) It will be the responsibility of the student to ensure that they are informed of any missed notices etc.
- l) Students receiving individualised support from the Sixth Form Pastoral Team should discuss their study arrangements with their Head of Year.
- m) Students are not to gather in groups when they have left the school site.

Any student who does not adhere to these adjusted study arrangements will have their independent study timetable reviewed.

For any student wishing to study at home during their independent study time they must consider:

- The distance from school and travel arrangements when they do; lateness to lessons will not be acceptable.
- Time wasted in travel is not easily useable study time and takes away the advantage of home study.
- Students should continue to avoid public transport, if at all possible. A face mask is compulsory on buses and so we are asking that parents provide their children with at least two washable face masks to allow for overnight cleaning.
- Students should not share cars or offer lifts to any individual not in their household.

Home study leave is just that; time taken at home to study, not an excuse to stay in bed, go home early or take employed work. Effective use of all independent study time will be vitally important to the student's progress. We therefore expect the student to be at home during the times negotiated and following government guidelines on social mixing.

If your son / daughter wishes to study at home during their independent study periods, we need your agreement. We ask you to give your consent by completing our online form [here](#). Please carefully select which study periods you give permission for your son / daughter to study independently at home. Without your consent, home study leave will not be granted and any absence from school will be registered as an unauthorised absence.

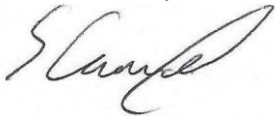
I would like to make you aware that if your son / daughter chooses to study at home during their designated study period(s), the school is not responsible for their welfare during this time. It is expected that apart from illness, or periods of self-isolation, the student will be in full-time attendance in school at all other times.

We expect these arrangements to remain in place for the foreseeable future. Students are expected to strictly adhere to their adjusted study programme. If students wish to amend their study plans after Monday 9th November, this should be negotiated through their Head of Year.

If you are concerned that home study leave is not working for your son / daughter, or you wish to review the arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact either; Mrs Farina (Head of Year 13) or Mrs Bamber (Head of Year 12). Similarly if we feel that things are not working out, either because of a down turn in progress or abuse of the system, we reserve the right to review the situation according to individual circumstances.

These are changing and unprecedented times, we will continue to work with our students to offer them the highest standards of support to allow them to achieve their goals. Should you wish to discuss any element of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school contact details.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Farina', written in a cursive style.