

17th April 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Re: Virtual Compass School - Summer Term

I hope you had a peaceful Easter holiday and that you and your families are safe. I know that several families have been touched by the Covid 19 outbreak and our hearts go out to you at this most difficult of times. In the midst of uncertainty, there is one constant, and that is the need for pupils' education to continue and good learning habits maintained so that your child is not at a disadvantage when schools return. Pupils up and down the country are rising to the challenge of virtual learning, developing knowledge, time management and IT skills that will become essential in the future workplace. I am proud of the way so many of our pupils and families have adapted to our new environment and have enjoyed hearing the shout outs from members of staff and making a few of my own phone calls to celebrate pupils' achievements.

We recognised the challenge many families have faced in having the right resources in place to support virtual learning. As a result, we have been fundraising to purchase additional equipment to support families and have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our community. Whether its Grosvenor Estates, City livery companies like the Curriers and Pewterers', residents' associations or donations from individuals, they have all contributed to raising over £30,000 for our pupils. I look forward to updating you by the end of the month on how the funds are being deployed.

Education is our core purpose as a school, and as we start the summer term, I ask for your support. Your child needs you now, more than ever, to uphold high expectations of learning. The two weeks before Easter saw the initial set up of our virtual school and families adapting to the new set up. The summer term will see a stepped change in the work teachers set, their availability to give pupils feedback and challenging pupils when work is not completed to the standard of which your child is capable. There will be phone calls and communications from different teachers, many will be good news, but where this is not the case, please support our staff to uphold the expectations that will lead your child to success.

What's new for the summer term?

Timetabled lessons - There will be a greater sense of normality. Teachers will set work for students according to their Virtual School timetables:

[Year 7 and 8](#) [Year 9 and 10](#) [Year 11](#)

Your support in ensuring that your child is up, online and logged into Microsoft Teams according to their timetable will help us keep them engaged in their learning and making progress over the term.

Recording work set and deadlines - Teachers will record all work set on Show My Homework now known as Satchel One. See the new platform guidance [here](#) and a guide to logging in [here](#). This will allow you as a parent to monitor the work your child is set and the deadlines.

Completion and submission of work - Teachers will be using Microsoft Teams to set up classes for your child. Your child has been sent the link to these classes and can view their assignments, complete and submit work, receive feedback and ask questions using the chat function through Microsoft Teams.

See the guide to Microsoft Teams [here](#) and a video from Ms Cunninghame talking students through how to submit work [here](#).

Teachers are setting tasks via workbooks, live explanations of PowerPoint presentations, worksheets or through online platforms such as MyMaths, [GCSE pod](#), Seneca etc. Instructions for these will come directly from their teacher.

Teachers will award house points for the completion of successful and high-quality work and will log work not completed on SIMs. Concerns around work not being completed or not being on target will be communicated to you directly by the teacher or their LFT/Head of Year.

Assessments - End of year assessments will take place in late June/early July. These will be taken online if the school is not open. Students will have access to GL Assessments in English, Maths and Science that are already completed online and will benchmark their learning against others nationally. We are currently developing our process for examinations across all subjects and will be in touch as soon as these are finalised.

Enrichment - There are a range of enriching activities for pupils to participate in online. These include fitness, debating, book and film clubs and many more. Enrichment teachers have invited your child to their enrichment class if in Years 7-9 and weekly assignments will be set through Microsoft Teams in the same way as academic lessons.

Other enrichment opportunities are available on the [Virtual Enrichment](#) page of our website thanks to Mr May and the Enrichment Team.

Library - Reading is of huge importance and our [Virtual Library](#) is open and ready to challenge and enlighten your child through weekly and daily challenges thanks to our Librarian Ms Quigley.

Careers - All pupils have access to Unifrog, our complete destinations platform that supports them with everything they need to plan their futures. Please see the [letter to parents](#) and our [Parent](#) and [Student Guides](#). They will be free to explore their interests, possible progression pathways, write CVs, complete applications when the time comes and even complete online learning modules from universities around the world. We are very excited at this new resource and I am sure you will enjoy sharing the content with your child through your parent login.

Year 11 - We will continue to support our Year 11 pupils in the coming weeks to ensure they are well prepared for the next stage of their journey. They have access to the Unifrog App and we encourage them to make full use of its contents, and particularly the online learning modules known as MOOCs relevant to their study next year.

Students have been assigned post-16 option classes and our teachers have started to teach and give feedback on students work to help prepare your child for their studies at college or 6th Form. The [Year 11](#) timetable is here and their work will be recorded and set in the same way as all other students.

Year 11 re-sit preparation for English, Maths and Science - Those at risk of not achieving a grade 4 (standard pass) in English, Mathematics or Science are still being taught to ensure they are well prepared should they need to re-take in the new academic year. They have a slightly different timetable and they have been communicated with separately regarding arrangements.

Reminder of expectations of behaviour for Virtual School

There is no change to the expectations of our students' behaviour during Compass Virtual School. Staff and pupils at Compass School are always expected to uphold the school's vision and values. This means abstaining from the negative behaviours, as well as distancing themselves from others who might be engaged in poor behaviour. Students should strive to complete all work and to meet all deadlines set by teachers. The school will contact parents when students do not do this.

It is also important to remember that behaviours outside of school may be sanctioned if they have repercussions for the orderly running of the school, pose a threat to another pupil or member of the public and could adversely affect the reputation of the school. Our [Behaviour for Learning](#) outlines our expectations.

All pupils should demonstrate professional online behaviour whilst at Compass Virtual School – especially in their communication and conduct with staff and students online. Furthermore, if material is considered unacceptable by the school when presented in a book, magazine, video, audio tape or spoken form, then it is not acceptable in Virtual School. The 'ICT Acceptable Use Agreement' outlines pupils' responsibilities in more detail and a copy of this can be found in the student planner.

Please visit the [Thinkuknow](#) website if you would like further information about how to support your child access the internet safely.

Rewards - Students will continue to be rewarded. House point certificates will be sent to students when they achieve 100 (bronze), 200, (silver) and 300 (gold) house points. A platinum badge has also been introduced for those for any student who receives 500 or more house points this academic year. Keep an eye out for the Head of Year videos (emailed out to students every Friday), Twitter account and Community Bulletin to see us celebrating our students as we are always keen to recognise pupils' efforts, achievements and exemplification of the Compass values.

Our annual prize-giving ceremony will still take place in July and we will plan for this to be conducted online if schools have not re-opened. We will send out further information about this closer to the time.

School Office Hours - The school office is currently closed. Please make contact via email at info@compass-schools.com where you can expect a reply within 24 hours during term time.

Bereavement - We are aware that some of our students may experience a bereavement as a result of the current Covid-19 epidemic. The school is here to support the community through this and students can speak to our school counsellor, Miss Mills-Langdown, if they need emotional support through this time. Please speak to a head of year or the safeguarding team if you would like to discuss this further.

Accessing support from other organisations while your child is off school - The school is running a voucher scheme to support our families in receipt of free school meals (FSM).

Other sources of support include:

<https://southwark.foodbank.org.uk/>
<https://southwark.foodbank.org.uk/locations/>
<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/southwark/>
<https://www.pecan.org.uk/southwark-foodbank>
<https://www.cschub.co.uk/>
<https://southwark.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/foodbank-vouchers/>

Key contacts

Heads of Years

Ms Hayward - Head of Year 7 chayward@compass-schools.com
Mr Haverty - Head of Year 8 phaverty@compass-schools.com
Ms Di-Stazio - Head of Year 9 adistazio@compass-schools.com
Mr Egbuchiem - Head of Year 10/11 pegbuchiem@compass-schools.com

Safeguarding

Mr Ngwenya - Vice Principal sngwenya@compass-schools.com
Ms Hazlewood - Assistant Principal jhazlewood@compass-schools.com
Mr Snoxell - Leader of Behaviour for Learning esnoxell@compass-schools.com

Your feedback is of huge importance as we constantly evaluate and review our Virtual school provision – please feel free to give feedback using our [Virtual School feedback Form](#).

I wish you all a happy and safe summer term.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Marcus Huntley
Principal
mhuntley@compass-schools.com