



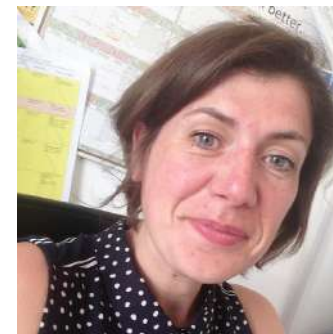
SOUTHLANDS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

VIRTUAL LEARNING

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



“ AN INTRODUCTION



Our commitment to working closely with our families and students to ensure that our young people are not adversely affected by the current school closure leads to a continual development of our online provision. Keeping the needs of our school community and research into best practice at the forefront of developments, we aim to clarify how online learning looks at Southlands.

Online learning sees us face unique challenges that require different approaches to our normal methods of working. Mindful of the need for changes in pace, content and delivery of the curriculum, we aim to provide high quality learning opportunities that push our students to work hard and achieve their potential.

OUR TEACHING PHILOSOPHY HAS NOT CHANGED.

We believe it is important that your child participates actively in intellectually stimulating lessons and activities that foster independent learning skills and new collaborative methods of working online with others. Online learning must be developed as a combination of live and asynchronous activities to maximise learning opportunities and student potential.

We hope that you will find the information here useful in helping us guide your child through their online learning journey and that every student is supported in academic and personal growth.

CARLY BARBER \ \ HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL



contents

- 3 Vision for Online Learning
- 4 Our Online Learning Experience in Action
- 5 Key Elements: Online Learning Experience
- 6 Frequently Asked Questions
- 7 Attendance Policy
- 8 Example Timetable
- 9 The Importance of Relationships
- 10 Structuring your Virtual Day
- 11 Tips for Parents
- 15 We are here to Help

VISION FOR ONLINE LEARNING

Our online learning experience has been developed and will continue to improve through regular consultation, reflection and adaptation. Selecting to follow strong academic evidence, Southlands follows a blended approach to delivering new content to our students. We see this as a real opportunity to consolidate old learning and to optimise new learning opportunities.

The online learning experience is comprised of a mixture of synchronous (face-to-face) sessions, through the Google Meet platform, and asynchronous activities (independent, assessed tasks) to consolidate learning and provide time away from the screen.

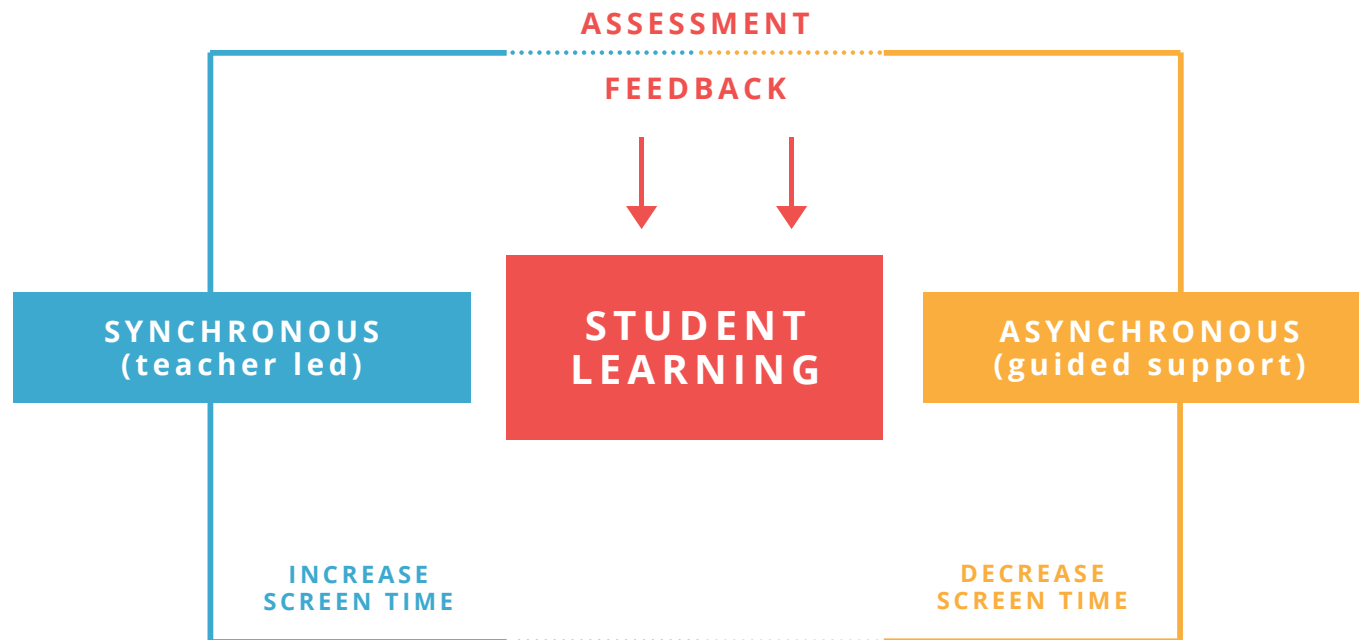
Supporting students in this is key and although students will sometimes be encouraged to complete work independently, teachers are readily available during timetabled sessions to aid with any independent activities set. Contact can be made through Google Classroom, ManageBac and email.

OUR AIM CONTINUES TO BE, AND ALWAYS WILL BE, TO MAXIMISE THE LEARNING OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND ENSURE THAT THEY CONTINUE TO PROGRESS IN EACH DISCIPLINE.

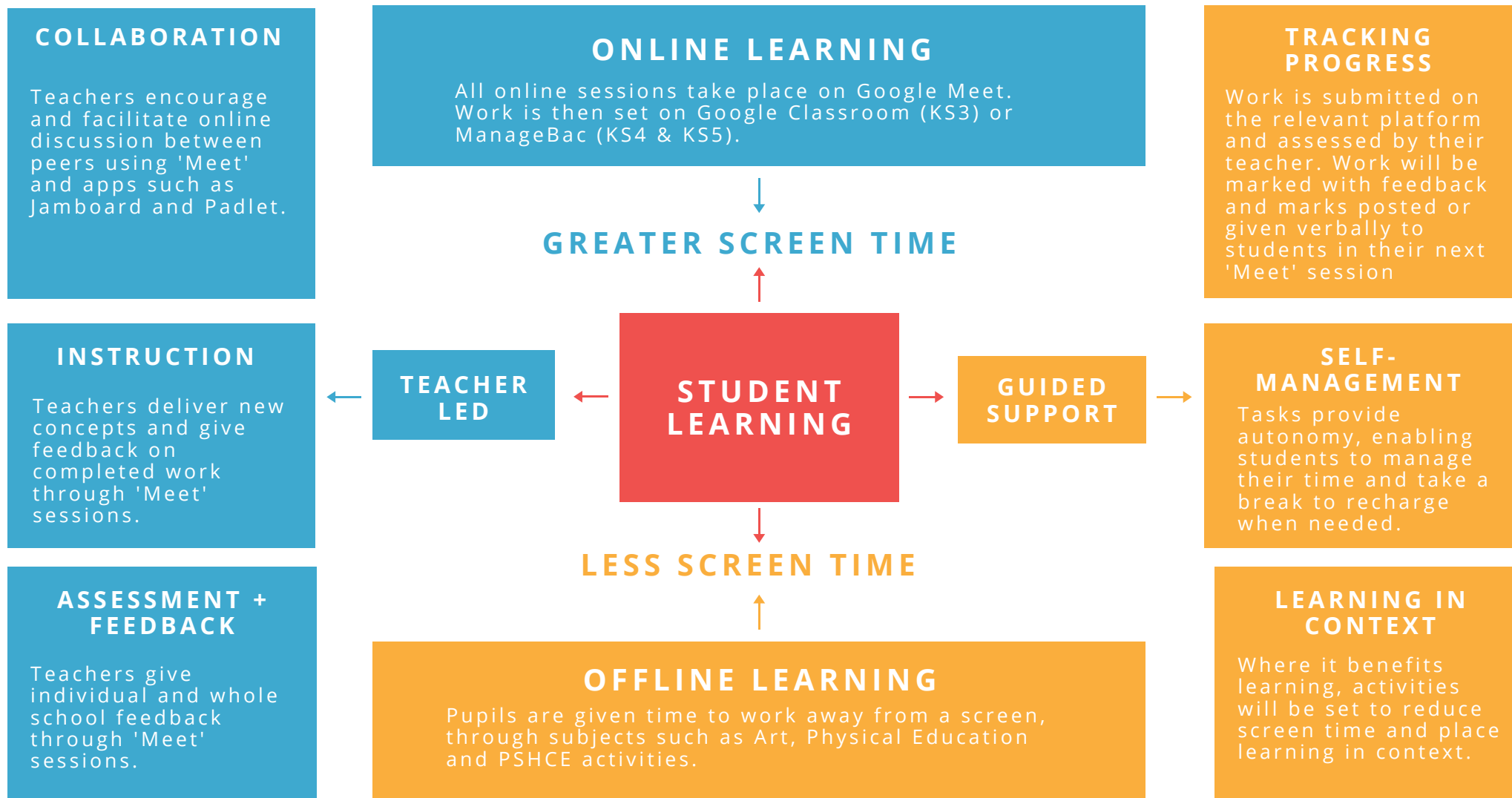
ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE IN ACTION

Synchronous learning serves to offer students an introduction to new material, in context, by expert teachers. They provide real time explanations and allow for active participation in discussion about the material by students and their peers. Google Meet sessions also allow follow up on assessed activities, where teachers can give feedback on how students can improve work and confront misconceptions.

Asynchronous learning serves to take learned concepts and apply them to new contexts, giving students the opportunity to show their understanding and produce high quality work. Tasks are carefully constructed to enable our teachers to assess individual understanding and support them to personally develop in areas of research, creativity, and building connections.



KEY ELEMENTS: ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DO I NEED A DEVICE FOR EACH CHILD?

Due to increasing the amount of 'live' content and delivering new content it is advisable to have one device per student. To contact the school about problems accessing technology, please email info@southlands.it

DO I NEED TO SUPPORT MY CHILD WITH THEIR HOME LEARNING?

The amount of support your child needs will likely depend on their age. One of the best things you can do is engage students in a dialogue about what they have coming up and what they have done throughout the day. This helps them reflect and elevates the value of online engagement.

DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO ATTEND 'VIRTUAL SCHOOL'?

The expectations for attendance to online sessions and submitting work is the same as if we were in the physical classroom. We expect students to be punctual to sessions and ready to learn. Registration takes place each day and we ask all children to attend as they would for the physical school.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD CANNOT ATTEND DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES?

For difficulties with technology or internet connection issues please telephone the school office as soon as possible so a communication can be sent to the relevant teacher. Students should then make arrangements on how best to catch up on missed work.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD CANNOT ATTEND DUE TO ILLNESS?

Please inform the school office as you normally would and this will be passed on to class teachers. IGCSE and IBDP students will need to notify their class teachers and organise new deadlines for work set.

IS STUDENT PROGRESS BEING MONITORED?

Through online sessions and assessment we will be monitoring the progress of students in their academic subjects. End of year testing will continue online if we do not reopen the school before the summer holidays. End of year reports will be sent out as normal in the last week of the summer term.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

HOW DO WE MONITOR ATTENDANCE ONLINE?

Online learning requires active participation and engagement in all the activities set. Therefore attendance will be based on the participation of the student in these sessions and not simply logging in. The completion of timed activities and independent tasks is vital to show that students are present and committed to learning.

Where students miss submission deadlines or fail to attend online sessions an automatic email will be sent to parents. If problems with engagement persist the school will contact parents to discuss how we can work in partnership to better support their child in attending and completing work.

REGISTRATION SESSIONS

Students should attend online registration each morning at 08:50am. This is a time where form tutors can check in on any missed work, communicate messages and monitor student wellbeing.

Each Friday students have the opportunity to catch up with their form tutors and discuss their week. Assembly videos are created weekly to celebrate the work completed and relay important messages.



EXAMPLE TIMETABLE

PERIOD	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
00 08:50 - 09:00	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
01 09:00 - 10:00	Computing	Geography	Art	P.E.	Drama
02 10:00 - 11:00	English	History	History	P.E.	French
BREAK					
03 11:30 - 12:30	French	Seconda Media	Maths	Seconda Media	Seconda Media
04 12:30 - 13:25	Science	English	Music	Maths	Maths
LUNCH					
05 14:25 - 15:25	Seconda Media	Science	Science	English	PSHCE Assembly

Students should follow their normal timetable and complete online sessions or activities at the times they would normally have their lesson. This helps to ensure that student learning can keep moving forward in a familiar structure.

Where subject teachers have not organised an online 'Meet' session, students will have received tasks to complete in this time. Importantly, teaching staff will be available and 'on stand by' throughout these scheduled times to support students with activities should they face difficulties with accessing the material.

Subjects such as Art and P.E will have tasks set through Google Classroom (KS3) and ManageBac (KS4&5) but actioning these tasks will provide valuable time away from the screen.

PSHCE is a great time for form groups to come together to discuss their week, catch up with peers and celebrate successes within the group.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIPS

Healthy relationships allow us to feel comfortable and supported in getting through the current school closure and we aim to facilitate and strengthen the relationships our students have with their peers.

Our online learning experience allows us to support and monitor student well-being, providing a degree of flexibility in the programme for students to develop personal interests and relationships.

STAYING SOCIAL

Tracking attendance and participation through registration and subject sessions means we can now provide more and more collaborative work. Using technology, students will be supported in collaborating over large distances to produce refined pieces of work.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

The weekly school assembly will continue to recognise fantastic work created throughout the week. With small form groups, tutors can celebrate personal achievements and pieces of work that are flagged as exceeding expectations.

HOME SUPPORT

Looking at student work, discussing the learning of the day and positively reinforcing students connecting with friends and family members is important for student morale and in reinforcing that they are not in this alone.

SOUTHLANDS COMMUNITY

Registration time engages students in lively conversation and develops a sense of belonging to their group. Online 'Meet' sessions allow students to share opinions and develop empathy and awareness of difference within the community, helping them to grow.

STRUCTURING YOUR VIRTUAL DAY

1.



Sign-in to Google Classroom/ManageBac . Check your calendar for tasks and Google Meets.

2.



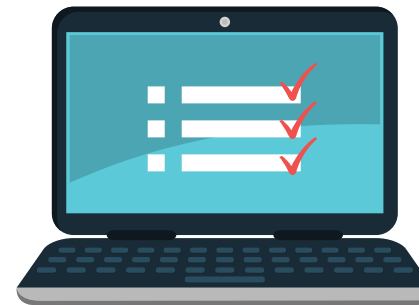
Check your timetable for the day and identify the time you will complete your asynchronous activities.

3.



Complete online lessons with subject teachers or iwork on tasks assigned for that period. *REMEMBER* teachers are on standby during this time to help.

4.



Reflect on the day, check for any updates and take some time to familiarise yourself with tomorrow's timetable. .

TOOLS FOR ONLINE LEARNING



A quiet place to study is essential to students being able to focus and remain on task.

Sitting at a table can help separate work areas from play/relaxation areas and help formalise the school day and established routines.

Headphones might help to block out any noise from the surroundings and allow students to listen to and actively participate in online sessions.

Offline equipment is important for reducing screen time. Where possible access to paper, pens, pencils and art equipment to complete offline activities would help students take a break from the blue light coming from their device.

Keeping devices charged ensures that devices do not shut down in the middle of tasks and online sessions.

Parental controls on devices and checking browser history ensures you can monitor what your child is viewing throughout the day.

A DAILY ROUTINE

By establishing routines and consistently sticking to these children can prepare for different points in the day and remain focused when completing activities between school hours.

Setting meal times with healthy choices will provide students with structured evenings and will help them self-manage exploring more personal interests outside of the curriculum.

Movement and exercise is vital to students being mentally and physically fit to engage in education. Try to encourage regular periods of physical activity (where space allows) to keep endorphins up!

We have valued the feedback about excessive screen time and feel strongly that students should not be in front of screens all day. Celebrate offline tasks and make these enjoyable points of the day.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Diet and exercise are fundamental to good learning
- Routines allow your child to have structure and plan ahead
- Online and offline activity support learning and both should be valued



STAYING SOCIAL



Feeling socially isolated from peers and friends who share common interests is extremely difficult. This is especially true for our students who are still trying to figure out their beliefs and possible future goals.

Support your child in regularly speaking with friends and other family members. Talking on the phone or connecting through various platforms enables students to feel connected with those they care about.

Supporting friendships and building relationships helps continue student social development and enables your child to participate in collaborative projects and maintain or build confidence to present and discuss with peers in an educational setting.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Connections with others are important for well-being
- Building relationships helps build confidence and team work
- Social media can be a useful tool when used at the right times in the right way

MANAGING SET BACKS

Meeting challenges is a natural part of every students' learning journey, whether in a normal or online learning environment.

Whilst we try to equip students with the right skills to tackle these challenges head on, some challenges will make your child feel demotivated and anxious. This is normal.

Rather than finding the solution, parents can help in reassuring that this is to be expected, that struggling is not permanent and that challenges can and will be overcome successfully in time.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Give them space and be flexible if they are upset
- Ask them to reflect on why it is tough and how they might approach the problem - offer guidance to the solution
- Be honest and open about anxiety and stress
- Encourage and join in in physical activities to reset moods
- Communicate with school when issues arise



WE ARE HERE TO HELP

We actively encourage our students to reach out for help or clarity on any aspect of their learning. They can contact their form or subject teachers through Google Classroom, ManageBac and their school email account. Where questions arise, please contact info@southlands.it and they will contact the appropriate teacher(s) who will be happy to help.

Our students are resilient and hard working. We will continue to develop and refine what we do to ensure they continue to improve in all aspects of the curriculum. Gaps in learning happen when schools are open and this is to be expected as we are all individuals and face different challenges. Our expert teachers will be on hand to ensure that these gaps are closed when we are back together again.





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