



WALTON HIGH SCHOOL

The Rise, Walton On The Hill, Stafford ST17 0LJ

Telephone: 01785 334 917 | Email: office@walton.staffs.sch.uk

Website: www.waltonstaffs.com

Headteacher: Mr N D Finlay BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteachers: Mr B Fletcher BSc (Hons) MSc

Dr J Rowley PhD BSc (Hons)

PROUD TO BE A PART OF



Dear parents/carers

Teaching and Learning 2020-2021

This year, and the national situation and restrictions, have brought a number of new teaching and learning priorities. Please see the outline below for more information on the developments to teaching and learning that we will be focusing on.

Retrieval practice

Retrieval practice is any strategy that involves pupils retrieving material that they have previously learned from their long-term memory. This may include: quizzes, mind maps, retrieval clocks knowledge organisers and graphic organisers. This has been a priority for us over the past couple of years and we are continuing to embed this in both lessons and homework this year. This is because research has shown that this helps to strengthen pupils' memory of this material and helps to ensure that the material is remembered in the long-term. This is even more crucial this year to ensure that pupils re-cover and remember the work that they completed during the national lockdown.

Feedback

Covid-19 guidance means that if teachers do want to collect and mark pupils' work this must be isolated for 48 hours before marking and 48 hours after marking. This may still increase the risk of transmission and means a huge delay in feedback being given to pupils, reducing its effectiveness. There is also no evidence to support the effectiveness of written marking and in fact, many studies show that alternatives to written marking can lead to further progress being made by pupils. As a result, we will be concentrating on alternative forms of feedback to written marking. This will firstly include teachers working with pupils in lessons to improve the written work produced by pupils and to give feedback at the point of writing. For example, teachers will write answers 'live' with the class, the class may deconstruct model writing to examine why it is successful, and teachers may also discuss the strengths of pupils' work using a visualiser (a camera that can display pupils' work on the board). Secondly, we will be using whole-class verbal feedback. Here, teachers will read the work produced by all pupils and then give feedback to the whole class on common strengths and areas for improvement. This allows teachers to give more feedback to pupils rather than the one or two written comments or questions pupils normally receive. Pupils will use this feedback to improve their work.

Please note that although we will be using different approaches to feedback, teachers will still read the work completed by all pupils and monitor their progress. Teachers are still able to give verbal feedback to individual pupils. Teachers will also still require pupils to complete regular assessments.

Effective remote learning

We have been working with all staff to ensure that they are able to deliver effective remote learning for any pupils who have to isolate. This is based on the most recent research on effective remote learning and includes how to deliver clear explanations, how to give feedback remotely, use of live and pre-recorded lessons (this includes Teams lessons which may be used if whole year groups have to isolate), and completing assessments remotely.

Other priorities

Along with the main developments above we are also focusing on making the maximum use of lesson time, designing clear explanations, ensuring all pupils are challenged and developing pupils' literacy.

We hope that this has given you some useful information and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Pearce
Assistant Headteacher
j.pearce@walton.staffs.sch.uk