

Determined, ambitious learners

9 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Due to Covid-19 and the effect that it is having on children's education, we want to assure you that the education and welfare of our students is our priority and we have put in place plans to cover every eventuality to ensure your child can still access lessons, delivered by their teachers, even when they are having to isolate at home.

In the event that your son/daughter is absent from school because they have to self-isolate or are awaiting a COVID-19 test result; a blended model of education will be implemented. This model combines in-school learning and remote learning at home. Please refer to the FAQs below for more information.

From their home, your child will be able to access their timetabled lessons via DPR where their teacher will issue them a google meet link. This will enable them to be part of the lesson as it is taught in real time alongside their classmates.

Students who are absent and not ill will be expected to follow their lesson timetable from home and log in to lessons as they are broadcast. Lessons will not be recorded and so will not be accessible later. It is vitally important that your child is organised and following their normal school timetable from home. Attendance and engagement will be monitored as if they are in school. The exception to this will be practical PE and Music lessons which will not be broadcast live. Tasks will instead be set on DPR to be completed at home whilst the lesson is taking place in school. However, please note that Year 10 and 11 PE and Music theory lessons will be broadcast live.

As you are aware Dynamic Progress Reporting (DPR) is our online learning provision through which students can access and submit class and homework. Students not in school should complete the work set by the teacher during the lesson on the DPR Assignment Portal according to their timetable. The work should then be submitted to staff for feedback as it would be if they were physically attending school.

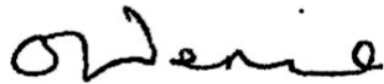
The caveat here is that in order for a blended learning environment to be successful, there are four major necessities:

1. Students must have good regular attendance whether they are attending school or accessing lessons online.
2. Students must have access to a computer with the internet.
3. Students must work to the best of their abilities, both in class and at home.
4. Students must be punctual to their lessons whether in school/logging in from home.

If you do not have a computer and internet access at home. please contact your child's Head of Learning at the school. We have limited resources but may be able to support by loaning a device for the period of time your child is required to self isolate.

Finally, once again, we would like to thank you for your understanding and patience during these difficult times. Please do contact us if you have any questions regarding the blended learning model we have put in place.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Omar Deria". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'O' being particularly large and stylized.

Omar Deria
Head of School

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is Blended Learning?

Blended Learning is a formal education model being successfully used in many schools throughout the nation. In Blended Learning, students will learn through two processes. Some learning will take place through online delivery of content and instruction. This gives students more control over the time, place, path, and/or pace of their own learning. Some learning will take place through the more traditional approaches of a supervised classroom depending on whether a student has to self isolate or not. This gives students the one-on-one attention, expert and individual support for their progress.

How will Blended Learning affect my child's progress?

Blended Learning will change how teachers guide your child through their learning if they have to access lessons remotely. However, it will facilitate your child being able to listen to the teacher, see the information shared/modelled/explained and enable them to "attend" (albeit remotely) lessons they otherwise would have missed. Blended Learning will not change the culture and community the students and staff have built. The Blended Learning model fits well with the school's goals and philosophy of fostering individual resilience and accountability for learning.

What is DPR and how does it work?

DPR is a piece of software that aims to simplify creating, distributing and assessing learning in a paperless way. Teachers use it to communicate with pupils and vice versa, share resources, lesson notes, PowerPoints, diagrams, home work and home learning. Parents can also use some of the features to help engage and support children in their home learning.

Will support/guidance be provided to enable me, as a parent, to support my child in accessing the lessons/work set?

See leaflet included with this letter [How to access blended learning lessons](#). A video which explains how to access DPR is also available on The [Cumberland School Website](#).

Is it safe to use?

DPR itself is completely safe. However, it is still the responsibility of parents to monitor what children are accessing online at home. We will continue to teach children the importance of being responsible digital citizens and accessing age appropriate material and we appreciate parents supporting this at home with their children.