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*Schools' Partnership*

**Headteacher:** Mr J Parr BA Hons

12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As with the development of new technologies the world of distance learning is moving at such an incredible pace that I am having to send you a further update from the one I shared with you in the Link on Friday. Some of the updates I have will help to ensure your child(ren) avoid missing their live lessons, hence why I did not want to delay sharing them with you.

#### **Problems with Teams refreshing and not loading**

Mr Morgan has had several emails about an issue with Teams entering a loop of trying to reload, but never managing to do so, which is incredibly frustrating. As always Mr Morgan has found a solution and produced a [how to guide](#) showing how to overcome this issue. There are two potential methods, but we must warn you that the second method does result in the loss of saved passwords and other saved login details.

#### **Increased data allowance offers from Mobile companies to support home learning**

Schools, trusts and local authorities can request mobile data increases for children and young people who meet all 3 of these criteria:

- Do not have fixed broadband at home.
- Cannot afford additional data for their devices.
- Are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education.

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit: Three, SMARTY, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile and O2. Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage, so if you cannot see your mobile phone provider listed but meet the three criteria please share your information and we will contact you when support is available.

How to request a mobile data increase. For each request, we need to know the name of the account holder, the number of the mobile device, the type of contract the device is on and the mobile network of that device (for example Three). This information must be shared with us by completing this [form](#).

#### **BT and BBC join forces to remove mobile data charges for BBC Bitesize educational content**

BT and the BBC have joined forces to supply free access to the BBC Bitesize educational content for all EE, BT mobile and PlusNet mobile customers while schools remain closed. 2 hours of secondary aged content will be available on BBC 2 from 1pm every weekday, designed to support the GCSE curriculum.

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BT is also offering a social tariff for low-income families, BT basic, a £10 per month fixed broadband and phone line service. With priority connection, this long-term solution offers low-income families a sustainable option that meets their data needs. More information can be found [here](#).

### **How to access Teams lessons on a games console**

We have been looking into alternative ways of accessing Teams using devices that many students have at home and found that many devices with a browser are able to access Teams lessons. This includes smart TVs and games consoles; however, Amazon Fire sticks are not able to as the Silk browser is not yet supported by Microsoft, but I will continue to investigate this.

I have produced a [how to guide](#) and a [video guide](#) showing you how you might be able to access Microsoft Teams through a PS4 or an Xbox. Teams does not run as smoothly as on a computer, tablet or smart phone and can be slow to load but is another possibility to access home learning. **It is important that you check your child whilst on the device as temptation may get the better of them and they may stray onto games! Consider moving the console to a communal area where you can keep an eye on them.**

### **Student behaviour and acceptable use reminder**

Staff have reported that most students are behaving perfectly during live lessons and that, as always, are a delight to teach. There is a small minority whose behaviour is slipping into what would be considered silliness, particularly concerning their use of the chat function. I have sent an email to all students to remind them of the acceptable use of the chat function and the consequences of not following our [acceptable use guidance](#). Students who do not follow this guidance will be warned that their behaviour is falling below our expectations and their ability to contribute to the group chat will be muted. If their poor behaviour continues, they will be removed from their lesson and the class teacher will contact parents/carers by email to let them know. All behaviour indiscretions will be recorded on Go4Schools.

### **Class notebook and OneNote**

Many teachers are making use of the Class notebook to share lesson content and tasks, which ensures students have a clear record of the work completed during lockdown and allows staff to check its completion and supply prompt feedback. There are user guides and videos to support students use of this feature on the school [website](#). If students are having issues accessing the Class notebook through Teams it can also be accessed through OneNote, which is the app that the Class notebook runs through, this can be found in the apps list on the left-hand side of their Office365 home screen.



### **FreedomTech Chromebook portal 3**

I have been contacted by parents about a further opportunity to buy/lease a Chromebook and I have been advised by FreedomTech that this is possible. The delivery of devices bought/leased through this portal would not be until early March following the portal closing on 10<sup>th</sup> February and their financial checks taking place on 25<sup>th</sup> February. If you are interested in taking advantage of the scheme, with these timescales in mind, please email [admin@csschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@csschool.co.uk) to register your interest and I will be in contact.

### **Home ICT provision survey**

We are constantly investigating opportunities to provide support for students with their home learning and the more information we have on everyone's circumstance the better we are placed to support them. Many of you have already completed the [KS3](#) and/or [KS4](#) Home ICT provision survey, if you

haven't yet had the chance can you please do so at the next convenient opportunity by clicking on the appropriate link.

Many thanks for all your help and support with home learning, it is the team effort of the whole school community that is, and will continue to be, essential in ensuring it is successful.

Kind regards,

Daniel Bird

Assistant Headteacher

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