



Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that this week's edition of The Link finds you all safe and well.

To begin, a big thank you and well done to all of our students for their full engagement with the distance work being set and delivered by their class teachers. We know that it isn't all straightforward, that sometimes the technology doesn't work fully and that it isn't the same as being in school with classmates, but it is fantastic to see and hear how obstacles are being overcome to keep learning going. In particular, I know that Year 11 students will be anxious and eager to know what is happening regarding exam grades. We heard in the news from the Secretary of State for Education this week with some of his thoughts, but at present we still have no detail to work on or share. We will, of course, communicate this information to students as soon as we can. In the meantime, it is imperative that all students, including Year 11, stay focused and complete the work set to the best of their ability.

We have been asked to share a letter from Vicky Ford, MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families entitled 'To all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), their parents/carers and families, and others who support them'. The letter can be found [here](#) on the school website.

Finally, thank you to parents and carers for the lovely messages of support and thanks that are being sent. We will soon be sharing a newsletter from the Trust, which will include information about the fantastic work in our family of schools, including a specific part about Church Stretton distance working.

Stay safe and have a good weekend

John Parr  
Headteacher

## Work Experience Cancellation Attention Year 10 Parents

Dear Parents/ Carers

It is with regret that the school has decided to cancel Year 10 Work Experience week in July. We would have begun the process in September but delayed our decision holding out hope that the new year would see an improvement of the chances of this activity occurring. With the new lockdown it is untenable for every student to secure work experience and for our health and safety checks to be completed.

The school values work experience as an important part of careers education and life skills, and has kept this going even when this was removed as a statutory requirement placed on schools. There are alternatives we are looking at. Many organisations and companies are offering virtual work experience offers. Details of the first few can be found later in this edition of The Link. If circumstances allow in the summer term, we are hoping to bring students a week of different experiences of the world of work enlisting local business and former students.

Any further enquiries please contact me on [lee.overton@csschool.co.uk](mailto:lee.overton@csschool.co.uk)

# S.P.O.A

Should you require additional support during lockdown, families can contact SPOA (Single point of access), they will conduct a brief survey and will then be able to direct you to the most appropriate support. Their contact number is 03333583654

Thank you

# Distance learning update

441 lessons delivered  
via MS Teams!



93% of lessons were  
live lessons!

This week saw 441 lessons delivered via MS Teams, which means 93% of lessons were live and provided students with the chance to interact with their teachers and gain top quality teaching, assessment and feedback. Our Distance Learning Co-ordinators (DLCs) are continuing to monitor students' attendance at live lessons and then trouble shooting issues to ensure as many students as possible are able to attend these lessons. 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.

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.**

Mr Morgan is continuing to provide IT support to parents, carers and students. When he identifies common problems, we do our best to produce easy to follow self-help guides and videos, which can be found on the [school website](#). 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.

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.

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.

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@cssschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@cssschool.co.uk) to register your interest and I will be in contact.

## FREE MOBILE DATA!!!

As you may have seen recently in the news with all students now operating under a remote learning model, the need for reliable internet connections to engage with learning has once again become paramount. Central government has recognised this and the Department for Education (DfE) has introduced a scheme to support children using mobile devices at home to engage with learning, who might be at risk of running out of available mobile 'data' or incurring additional fees. This scheme would involve schools making requests to mobile phone operating companies to temporarily increase mobile data allowances for devices being used by children to access learning resources. The service providers currently participating in this scheme are:

- Three • Smarty
- Virgin Mobile • EE
- Tesco Mobile • Sky Mobile

Full details of network offers can be found [here](#).

The bill payer is eligible to request support if they:

- Do not have a fixed broadband at home
- Cannot afford additional data for their devices
- Are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education, such as a lockdown or isolation period and are using an existing mobile phone package with a 4G/3G data connections.

Please note that only schools can make the request to the relevant telecoms provider to temporarily increase data allowances on a given mobile device, as this request is made through an online DfE portal to which only schools have access. If you feel that your child meets the eligibility criteria above and their device operates on one of the networks above please can you complete the information on the attached Microsoft Form. This will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence and will ask for the following details:

- The full name of the account holder
- The number of the mobile device (e.g., 07xxx xxx xxx)
- The mobile network of the device (e.g., Three)
- Whether you pay monthly or pay as you go (Pay monthly or PAYG)

Please complete the online form by clicking [here](#). This will need to be submitted by Monday 18th January.

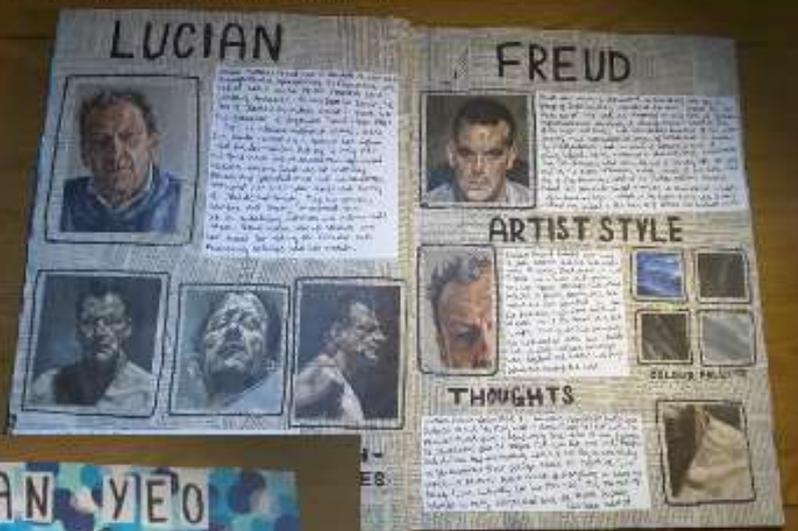
On receipt of these details, the school will use the DfE online portal to request an increase in data allowance. Please note that by providing the personal data above, we will use the information solely for the purposes of making the request for additional data allowance and that you will be deemed to have consented to us storing and processing the personal data for this purpose. The full privacy policy can be found by clicking [here](#).

# Lockdown master pieces

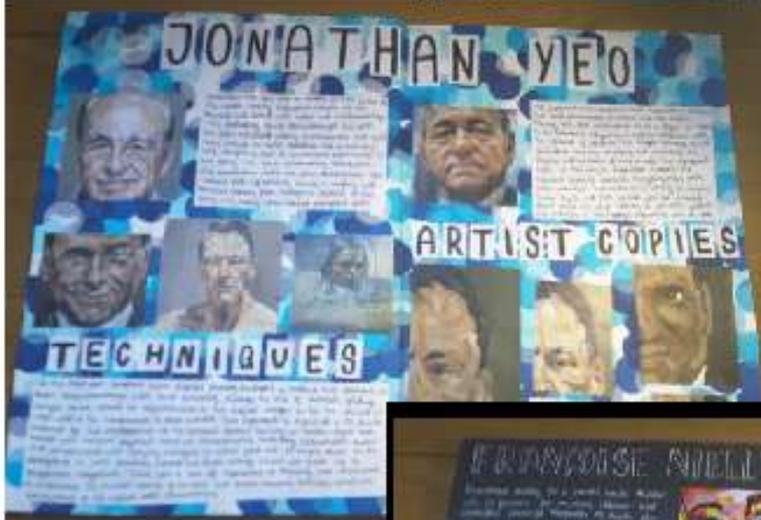
by Lucy Orme and Eva  
Spurling



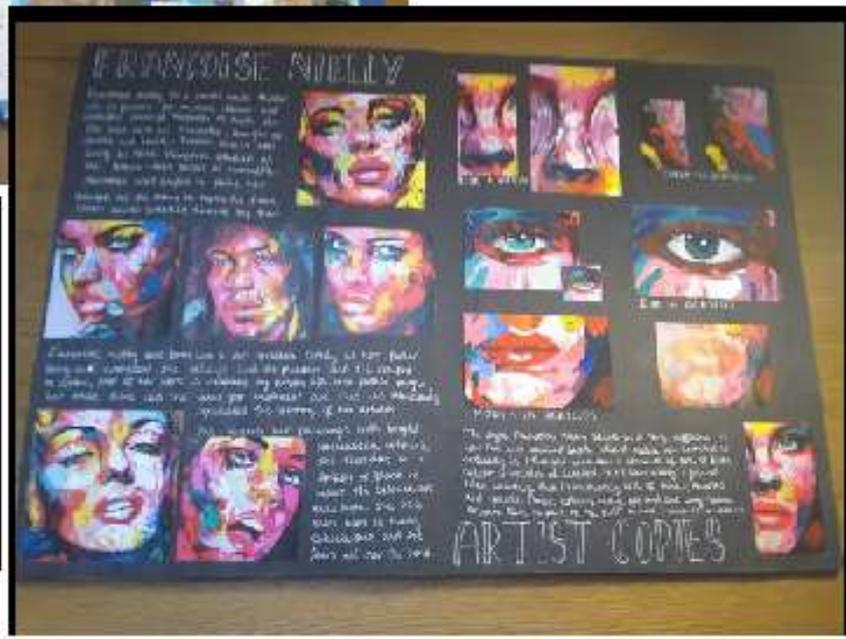
These amazing sketch book pieces were produced by Lucy and Eva during the first lockdown.



They are now being used to support and inspire the current Year 10 to create their own art work during the current lockdown.



Mrs Fletcher-Tyrie has promised that there are lots more lockdown master pieces on their way. So, watch this space for more stunning work coming soon!





# Accelerated

# Reader



Congratulations to all those people who are using Lockdown as a chance to catch up with some reading.

Remember the Accelerated Reader Quizzes are still available for you to do at home. In order to do this, you must use the Link that is on Go4Schools or on the School Website, or here

<https://ukhosted72.renlearn.co.uk/2247330> otherwise it won't work.

Congratulations to the following people who are obviously doing that because they have passed their Accelerated Reader target. So well done to:

## **Year 7**

Summer Jones

## **Year 8**

Ellie Bill

Aisha Green

Sophie Mackechnie

Mary Preece

Freddie Westall

## **Year 9**

Leia Andrews.

I hope everyone is keeping well and I look forward to seeing many more names next week.

## Live Virtual NHS Healthcare Careers Work Experience Programme

Due to the cancellation of work experience both this year and last year the school is looking for opportunities for students to gain some work experience through different mediums.

The school has been informed of an opportunity for students, primarily in Yr10 and Yr11, who are interested in health care and medical careers. This series of days is run by Allied Healthcare Mentor. There are 6 days available, one on the first Sunday of each month from February until July. You can opt to complete all 6 days or choose one day. There is a cost which would need to be covered. £10 per day or £50 if you book all 6 days. It is the responsibility of parents and students to register and pay for this opportunity, if they believe this would be beneficial for their child. This is optional and this event is not run by the school. If you are interested, please follow the link below for more information and to be able to register for the event:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience/>

### [NHS Healthcare Careers Virtual Work Experience – Allied Healthcare Mentor](#)

Let us help you to take your first steps into the world of healthcare careers. This is a flexible virtual work experience programme that you can tailor around you, by selecting from a choice of dates.

[alliedhealthmentor.org](http://alliedhealthmentor.org)

### **Online Free Careers Event**

*Barclays Life Skills and the Future Talent Group have set up an event with Tim Peake, British Astronaut and Officer in the Army Air Corp, to talk about his experiences, his skills, and career. It is on Thursday 21st January from 5pm-6pm. This is completely FREE. This is optional but a great opportunity to listen to an inspirational figure and even get Tim to answer a question from your child. I have notified all students, but the Future Talent group has asked that parents register for the event. See the link below.*

[https://www.futuretalentgroup.com/tim-peakeevent?utm\\_campaign=Future%20Talent%20Magazine%20-%20issue%2028&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsmi=105163836&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8oqPTNkT\\_cdTXtV3id8cb-SlxqVWV4xeisqaPa\\_RwRqZU0hXxm7bIL495Yy-43ND70deccelVkiNoN\\_Egpp9iF5xsNw&utm\\_content=105164548&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.futuretalentgroup.com/tim-peakeevent?utm_campaign=Future%20Talent%20Magazine%20-%20issue%2028&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=105163836&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8oqPTNkT_cdTXtV3id8cb-SlxqVWV4xeisqaPa_RwRqZU0hXxm7bIL495Yy-43ND70deccelVkiNoN_Egpp9iF5xsNw&utm_content=105164548&utm_source=hs_email)



### Future Talent Group

Future TalentED is a careers education hub connecting schools and businesses to bring the world of work to life for young people

[www.futuretalentgroup.com](http://www.futuretalentgroup.com)

## **Online Open Event for Hereford 6th Form**

See message from HSFC. The link to the website to register is at the bottom of the message.

We are delighted to be able to give you the full details of our forthcoming **Open Event** which will be held on **Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February from 5.30pm – 8.00pm.**

This event will be held virtually and will follow a similar format to the event we held in October 2020. However, we are excited to let you know that as part of this event, students will be able to watch live “taster“ sessions in all subjects.

As you are aware, we usually welcome Year 11 students to the college for a day in January when they are able to look around the campus, participate in taster sessions and get a real feel for college life. Obviously, due to the ongoing pandemic, we are not able to offer this to your students this year. We are conscious that this particular cohort also missed out on the Year 10 visit which should have taken place in July 2020.

We are hoping that the February event will be able to offer the students a fantastic experience to cover some of the key ground they would have had in a normal year.

The event will run as follows:

5.30pm	<b>Event opens – talk from the Principal</b> Opportunity to look around the Expo areas at pre-recorded videos of each subject.
6.00pm	<b>Taster Session 1</b> (20 - 30 minutes) – <i>live streamed lesson with text chat via Expo area</i>
6.45pm	<b>Taster Session 2</b> (20 - 30 minutes) – <i>live streamed lesson with text chat via Expo area</i>
7.30pm	<b>Taster Session 3</b> (20 - 30minutes) – <i>live streamed lesson with text chat via Expo area</i>
8.00pm	<b>Event close</b>

There will also be a virtual tour of the college available for students to be able to take a look around our campus and see some of our facilities.

Students will need to register for this event by visiting our website – they will not be able to join the event without doing this.

A schedule of which subjects are running at which times will be published on the website so that students can plan their evening and decide which subjects they would like to experience. During the sessions students will be able to text in questions and chat for live responses. Students will not be expected to interact with the session either on camera or microphone, they will be viewing a lesson in action.

In between the live Taster Sessions, students will be able to visit other subject areas to ask any questions via text chat as well as watching subject presentations and PowerPoints. They will also be able to visit general areas such as Learning Support, Bursary and Travel etc to ask any questions they may have.

[Hereford Sixth Form College Virtual Open Event | Hopin](#)

I know that this is a challenging time for all of us but just wanted to remind you that we are here to help if needed. The effects of being at home and feeling isolated are quite normal but if your son/daughter requires some additional support there are various online resources that offer advice such as:

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

## Home - Kooth

Kooth is your online mental wellbeing community. Access free, safe and anonymous support.

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)



## YoungMinds - children and young people's mental health charity

We're the UK's leading charity fighting for children and young people's mental health. We will make sure all young people get the best possible mental health support and have the resilience to overcome life's challenges.

[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

Additionally, if they require any pastoral support from school please email the relevant person:

Key stage 3 (Years 7,8 & 9 ) - Mr Wright [philip.wright@cssschool.co.uk](mailto:philip.wright@cssschool.co.uk)

Key stage 4 (Years 10 & 11)/Safeguarding - Mr Longhurst [martyn.longhurst@cssschool.co.uk](mailto:martyn.longhurst@cssschool.co.uk)

SEN - Mrs Quye [su.quye@cssschool.co.uk](mailto:su.quye@cssschool.co.uk)

Teams - Mr Bird [daniel.bird@cssschool.co.uk](mailto:daniel.bird@cssschool.co.uk)

We are all here to help you over the coming weeks.

Stay safe,  
Mr Longhurst

## Keeping Active during Lockdown

For those students that would like some ideas of how to keep active at home throughout lockdown we have provided a number of different workouts for you to have a go at should you wish to. All the images on the PowerPoint are linked to a YouTube video that you can follow along, they are a great way of keeping active.

 [Netflix-Master-Copy.pdf](#) - this is the link that is on SharePoint which students will be able to access. It is also on the school [website](#) in the extracurricular section under the main curriculum tab.



# REMOTE EDUCATION 10 TOP TIPS FOR CHILDREN

Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For students, it's the perfect way to ensure they still get the education they need, despite not being at school. However, it also requires a level of discipline and careful planning. That's why we've created this guide to help pupils understand different aspects of remote education and to support them in ensuring their experience is as safe and secure as it can be.

## 1. TREAT REMOTE EDUCATION THE SAME AS CLASSROOM LEARNING

Despite being at home, it's important to remember the same rules apply as being in the classroom, particularly in respect of behavior and conduct. Focus on learning and don't get distracted by your surroundings.



## 3. TAKE REGULAR SCREEN BREAKS

Whilst remote education might be an exciting experience to begin with, having prolonged periods of time in front of a screen isn't always healthy. Remember to have regular screen breaks where possible and in your spare time, try to get some fresh air and enjoy other activities away from electronic devices.



## 5. ONLY COMMUNICATE THROUGH APPROVED SCHOOL PORTALS AND PLATFORMS

It's important that you send messages and any pictures or images required for class through approved school channels, such as internal learning portals or approved platforms. This will help to keep your personal information safe and secure.



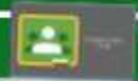
## 7. DRESS IN SCHOOL UNIFORM

As part of your learning environment, try to maintain school uniform/dress. This will help as part of replicating classroom learning in the home. Try to avoid wearing anything too casual as this could be deemed inappropriate for school.



## 9. DON'T USE SCHOOL PLATFORMS TO DISCUSS PERSONAL MATTERS.

It's important to keep your school communication channels separate from your own personal communication with friends and family. Don't be tempted to engage in casual discussions or send images, videos or links via official school apps or platforms that aren't associated with your learning.



## 2. USE CLASSROOM LANGUAGE

If you are encouraged to communicate through emails and online messages, don't use shorthand text speak and write as though you would speak in class. Remember to be respectful and polite and avoid posting negative comments or spamming the chat.



## 4. ALWAYS CONDUCT VIDEO LEARNING IN AN OPEN SPACE AT HOME

To get the best experience from remote education, it's important to create the right environment around you. Try to set up a mock 'classroom desk' at home in an open space so parents can supervise if necessary. Avoid bedrooms as this could be considered inappropriate.



## 6. STICK TO TEACHER RULES AND GUIDELINES AROUND REMOTE EDUCATION

Your school should issue you with guidance on remote education and the rules to follow. Always maintain classroom behaviour and try to remember that you are in a learning environment and not a social setting.



## 8. DON'T SHARE PASSWORDS OR OTHER SENSITIVE INFORMATION

In order to begin your online lessons or to gain access to learning materials, you may be provided with login details and passwords. In the same way you keep your personal details private, always keep these safe and never share them with others.



## 10. LOOK AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

Remote education ultimately means working alone and missing out on daily social interaction with your friends. If you ever feel frustrated, low or sad, it's important to discuss how you feel with your parents or your teacher. Keeping in touch with friends over the phone or on social media can also help to keep your spirits up.



# REMOTE EDUCATION 10 TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For parents and carers, remote education isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote education experience.

## 1. TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

As a parent or carer, your school may have explained how remote education works already, but children may still need help. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



## 2. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S COMMUNICATION AND ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



## 3. ESTABLISH A DAILY SCHEDULE AND ROUTINE

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



## 4. ENCOURAGE SCREEN BREAKS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AWAY FROM DEVICES

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks; however, it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



## 5. ENSURE YOUR LEARNING DEVICE IS IN PUBLIC SPACE IN THE HOME

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral, with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



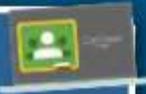
## 6. IMPLEMENT SAFETY CONTROLS AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS ON APPS AND SOFTWARE

Dependant on how your school implements remote education, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



## 7. ENSURE YOUR CHILD ONLY USES OFFICIAL SCHOOL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



## 8. FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH RELEVANT SCHOOL POLICIES

Schools should have a policy on remote education that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



## 9. MAINTAIN FEEDBACK WITH TEACHERS

Engage in communication with teachers where possible, and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



## 10. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Remote education will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as they can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends every day might take its toll.

