

Guidance to parents and carers to support learners to stay safe and stay learning

(January 2021)



This year's changing circumstances have required great flexibility and resilience as learning moves from home to school and back again. At Cantonian, we are grateful to you for supporting your child's learning offline or online at this difficult time. Over the next few weeks, we will continue to set work for your child to do, maintain contact and provide you with help along the way. Any encouragement and support you offer will be very helpful, but you are not being asked to be a teacher. We hope that this leaflet will provide you with some useful information about the way in which your child is currently being asked to learn.

Definitions

Blended Learning: An approach that combines face-to-face and distance learning experiences. Face-to-face learning and distance learning should complement each other and should be driven by a single curriculum.

Distance Learning: When pupils' learning takes place outside of school. This can be called remote learning.

Face-to-Face Learning: Refers to the learning your child will receive when they are inside an educational setting.

Synchronous Learning: Teachers and learners attend a session/lesson at the same time. This can take place face-to-face or online.

Online Learning: This is education that takes place over the Internet. It is often referred to as "e-learning", among other terms. However, online learning is just one type of 'distance learning'.

Asynchronous Learning: Teachers provide learning materials (may include online videos, audio clips and presentations) which can be accessed by the learner in their own time.

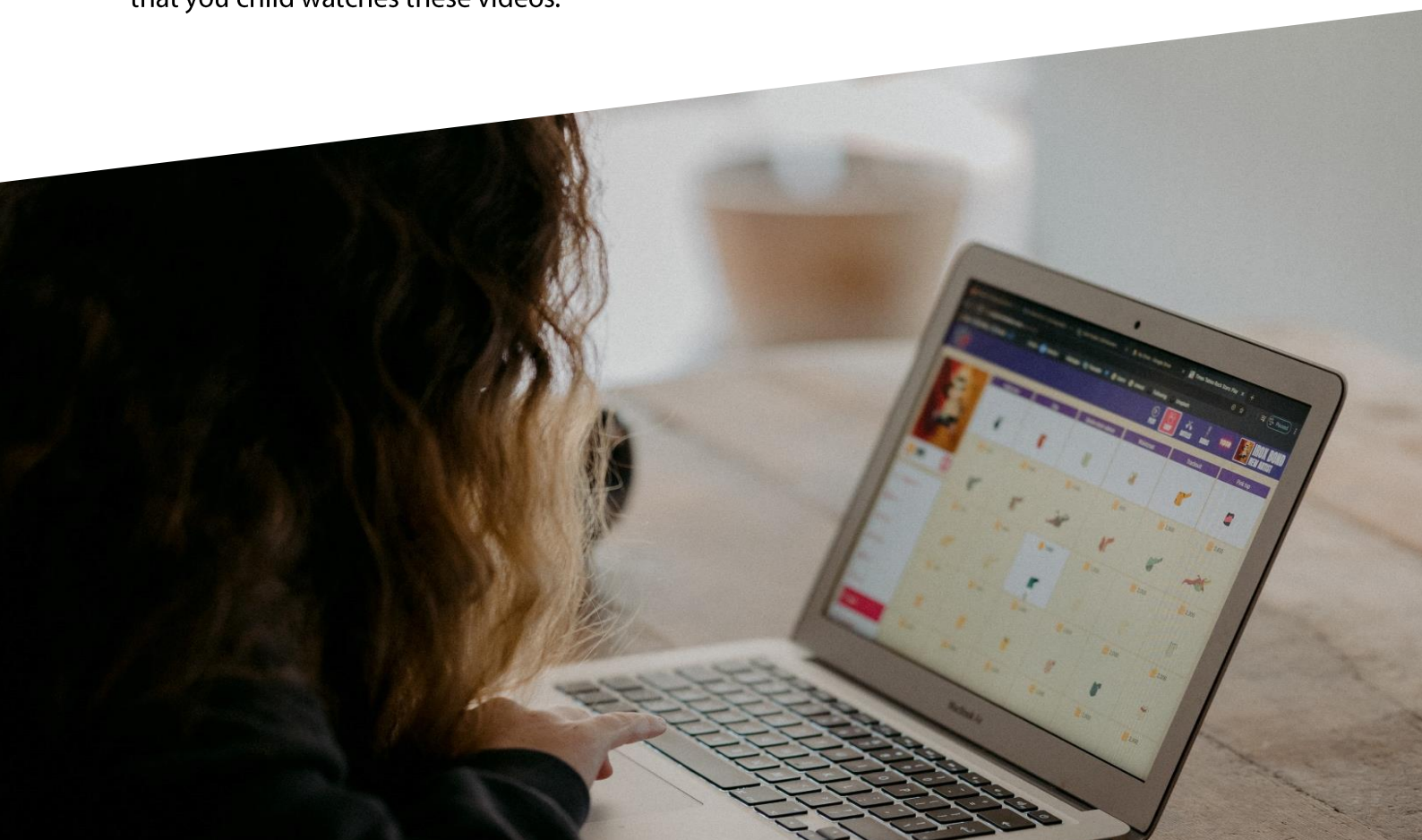
Different approaches to delivering learning

It is important to note that schools and settings will take different approaches to delivering learning during this period. One model of delivery will not suit all schools or all learners and there are many forms of learning that will be undertaken during this period. It is not helpful to compare how one school approaches distance learning to another as the contexts will vary. At Cantonian, your child will be in receipt of a variety of methods to engage them in their learning. These may include:

- Pre-recorded material from staff to explain and set the scene for learning (asynchronous).
- Some lessons being delivered via live streaming (synchronous).
- Learning tasks which may need completing online, in books, reading books or creatively (building models etc.).
- Shared learning where learners may be able to learn with their peers.
- Teachers engaging with your child through a messaging function within their learning platform, Microsoft Teams.
- Independent activities, for example: researching a subject or topic, completing a practice test or assessment, watching a TV programme for example, BBC and S4C have a range of programmes on offer to assist our teachers to deliver learning.
- Engaging in physical activities, for example: Joe Wicks fitness sessions, going for a local walk, outdoor play (in line with Government Guidance).
- Engaging in wellbeing activities which we will set once a week to encourage your child to step away from the screen to undertake a different task at home.

In addition:

- Your child is expected to attend an online check in session every morning at 9.00am, known as Form Time.
- Weekly assemblies are created by Heads of Year and the Senior Leadership Team and it is important that you child watches these videos.



What can you expect from Cantonian?

1. Your child's teacher will set work on a daily basis, following the usual school timetable, with clear guidance and, where appropriate, support for your child to complete and return their work to school for marking/feedback.
2. All pupils should now have access to a digital device; if not, please contact the school.
3. Our communication about distance learning to parents/carers will be simple and accessible to all. Please see the school website for details on how to support your child and how to access Teams via Hwb.
4. We will continue to communicate with parents/carers using text messages, Class Charts, newsletters, the school website, Twitter and phone calls.
5. We will regularly ask you as parents/carers to provide views on our learning provision and will continue to refine this giving consideration to your feedback.

How you can help us

1. It is important that you contact us if you have any questions, queries or concerns. Please do not use the lesson channels on Teams to communicate with staff. This is a virtual classroom and messages on there are not appropriate. Please use the usual methods to contact school if needed.
2. Try to avoid comparing the approaches to learning that other children are receiving within other classes or within other schools. As a school, we are trying hard to ensure that we provide the most appropriate approaches to learning that meet the needs of your child and the learning objectives of each activity. It is likely that these will be varied, as there is no 'best way' or 'one size fits all' when it comes to teaching in this way.
3. The school is providing live learning in the majority of lessons. Please encourage your child to engage with this, as it is an opportunity for them to speak to their teacher and ask questions about the work.



How we will support learners in examination year groups

The set of expectations expressed below applies specifically at times when learners in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 are required to learn remotely, and for the current period of the spring term until half term. These expectations will be reviewed in February.

- Learners will receive daily contact from Form Tutors in support of learning, motivation and wellbeing. We expect them to follow their timetable which will be an engaging combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning and support, using digital and non-digital means as appropriate to the group and the subject.
- Accelerated Learning Teachers are mentoring groups of pupils to support with academic progress in the Core subjects, and an Accelerated Learning Tutor and Teaching Assistant are working with small groups of pupils to mentor and support them whilst working from home.
- Learning resources provided by us will be of high quality to enable learners to progress as closely as possible to how they would have progressed if they were in class.
- We will continue to track learners' engagement with our distance learning offer as it essential that they engage fully with their learning from home. Parents/Carers will be kept up to date with this if there is cause for concern.

