



The Mall School

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Year 8 guide for parents on remote learning

The following is a guide to how we will aim to support you and your son pastorally and educationally next term. Thank you if you took the time to complete our recent survey on remote learning which we have used to inform the approach we are taking.

Thank you also for your patience so far and also for the many supportive comments regarding what we have already put in place. These are unprecedented times and all schools and families are going to find home schooling challenging. We ask you to appreciate that no amount of preparation will replicate the typical school day, and any attempt to provide educational continuity will be carried out with the aim of supporting parents in the education of your sons.

The approach we are trying to adopt is one that is simple, supportive and safe. We understand that without a teacher present, and with the inevitability of varying levels of support available at home, we want to ensure we are providing activities which find a balance between challenging your son but do not require high levels of support and input from you.

We are also mindful of the pressures on families in the current circumstances. Many of you will have understandable concerns about the health of family and friends; be trying to juggle family life with working from home; and have financial or other concerns related to your work. There will also be many families who will have more than one child who needs your attention and will need to share a device and indeed there will be many parents who will be working from home and will also need access to the same devices. With this in mind, it would not be wise for us to try to recreate a usual school day, and we understand families may need some flexibility in terms of the times they access online learning tools.

Online safety

We are also aware of the hazards associated with pupils working online. Keeping children safe online can seem rather daunting for parents but try to think of it as you would road safety. Teaching children about road safety is giving them the tools and confidence to know how to look after themselves and behave safely when they are out and about on their own. From an early age we teach our children not to dash out into the road but find somewhere safe to cross. Online safety is the same.

The [Child Exploitation and Online Protection website](#) part of the UK National Crime Agency gives clear, straightforward guidance on staying safe online.

The [Net Aware website](#) produced by the NSPCC is excellent for explaining about social networks, apps and games. If you do not know what a meme or Tik Tok are then this is the site for you.

Just as we teach road safety in school so we have been teaching your sons about online safety. The following are the top tips we would like you to reinforce with your sons.

- Tell your parents if something happens online that upsets you or made you worried. They are not going to be cross.
- Do not share personal information with people online. You are a secret agent and you do not tell anyone your name, address or date of birth even if you think you know them. Speak to your parents first before sharing this information.
- Behave online as you would in school and be the best version of yourself. Do not do anything online that you would not do at school.
- When your son is online try to have him working somewhere you can keep an eye on what he is doing.
- Have plenty of breaks from screen time. Get some exercise and fresh air.

We would be grateful if you would take the time to read the following school policies and share the relevant sections with your sons: [Remote teaching and Learning](#); [Information and Communication Technology](#); [Email](#).

Hard copies of work

Boys in Year 8 took most of their text books and revision papers home before the Easter holiday. An additional pack of work will be delivered to your house from Wednesday 15 to Friday 17 April. If you have not received your son's pack by Monday 20 April please email reception@themallschool.org.uk

The start of term is Wednesday 22 April although we will have individual video form meetings on Monday 20 April for all boys to explain what will be happening. Mr Stock will email you with a time when these meetings will take place.

Daily video conference

There will be a daily video conference for all boys. Mr Stock will be using this meeting for pastoral matters but also to update boys on what they are expected to do. Although we would like all boys to be present at these daily meetings, the teachers will not be able to speak to all of them on a daily basis. However we aim to speak to all the boys over the course of the week.

Boys will need to be dressed appropriately for these meetings but do not have to wear their school uniform.

Weekly timetable

Mr Stock will send out a weekly timetable at the start of term giving a brief overview of the subjects to be covered. You may wish to print off the timetable or save it to a computer, and you and/or your son can tick off the subjects when they have been completed. The timetable includes an indication of how long a boy should spend on each activity. The timetable is there for guidance and please feel free to adapt it to suit your personal circumstances. Do not panic if your son cannot complete all the activities.

Microsoft Office 365 Teams

All boys have an account with Teams. Parents can download the Teams app for any mobile device, tablet, laptop or personal computer. We will email you with your son's account name and a generic password which you can change (please make a note of this new password and keep it somewhere safe).

We will use the Assignments app in Teams so boys can see what activities they need to complete and by when. Where an activity requires a more detailed explanation we will include a recorded lesson where additional detail about individual activities can be found. These lessons can also be downloaded so boys can access them at a time which is convenient to the family or so he can watch it more than once.

Teaching staff

To simplify communication between staff, pupils and parents, and to ensure continuity across the year group, the following members of staff will be teaching your son in the summer term. If you or your son have any questions about the work set please email the relevant member of staff who will endeavour to get back to you within 24 hours.

Name of staff	Subject	Email
Mr Stock	8M form tutor	seniortutor@themallschool.org.uk
Ms Challis	English	academic@themallschool.org.uk
Mr Miller	8CE Maths	pastoral@themallschool.org.uk
Dr Miller	8S Maths	MillerA@themallschool.org.uk
Dr Kermack	Science	KermackD@themallschool.org.uk
Mr Stock	History	seniortutor@themallschool.org.uk
Mr Fair	Geography	deputyhead@themallschool.org.uk
Mr Price	Religious Studies	headpa@themallschool.org.uk
Mme Capell	French	capellF@themallschool.org.uk
Mrs Effendowicz	Latin	EffendowiczS@themallschool.org.uk
Mr Box	Mallian Award (sport)	pe@themallschool.org.uk
Mr Lang	Mallian Award (IT/art/DT)	LangS@themallschool.org.uk
Mrs Colclough	Mallian Award (music)	music@themallschool.org.uk

Activities

Work set for your son will include a mix of hard copies of work that has been provided for him; tasks that can be completed and marked online; and tasks where his teacher has recorded an introduction to the activity.

Some of the activities boys complete online are marked automatically e.g. Accelerated Reader, My Maths. Teachers can also create their own quizzes using Forms on Office 365 which boys can complete and are also marked automatically.

Some work boys can mark themselves or with their parents because an answer sheet or booklet has been provided.

Teachers will ask for some pieces of work to be scanned and then emailed or uploaded to Office 365 for them to mark and return. We will be recommending that parents use the Microsoft Office Lens app which can scan documents and upload them to an individual Cloud account. Teachers can also use this for texts or documents they want to share with their class.

Common Entrance and scholarship exams

To keep the boys motivated, and because many of them have been working hard and revising, we will be setting Common Entrance and scholarship exams for them in the summer. These will be modified versions of those provided by the Independent Schools Examination Board and boys will take these assessments under exam conditions at home. Papers will be posted to you over half term with instructions on how we want the exams to be taken. The exams will be sat over the first two weeks after the May half term holiday and the completed papers posted to school (we will provide a stamped self-addressed envelope). The papers will then be marked by the relevant member of Mall staff.

Leavers' events

If the school does not reopen during the summer term, we are planning to have an evening leavers' event for Year 8 in the autumn term. As the boys will not have the opportunity to be awarded book prizes by their senior schools for exemplary performance at Common Entrance or scholarship, we will be awarding our own book prizes at the leavers' event based on the boys' performance in the summer exams.

Online activities

All boys in Year 8 have usernames and passwords for the following websites which they have been using in school. These details are written in the boys' homework diaries. If you are having problems logging on please contact the relevant member of staff below.

[Accelerated Reader](#)

Accelerated Reader has comprehension quizzes and vocabulary tests on tens of thousands of children's books. Once a boy has finished his reading book he should take the relevant quiz. Boys should be aiming to complete a reading book and quiz every two weeks.

Contact Miss Challis, Head of English, academic@themallschool.org.uk if you have any questions.

[MyMaths](#)

Boys in 6 will either be set work to complete in MyMaths or can use it to revise topics they have been covering.

Contact Mr Miller, Head of Maths, pastoral@themallschool.org.uk if you have any questions.

[Linguascope](#)

[Languages Online](#)

Boys in Year 8 might be set weekly activities in French on Linguascope.

Contact Mme Capell, Head of French, capellF@themallschool.org.uk if you have any questions.

Mallian Award

For boys in Years 4 and above there will be a Mallian award which they can work towards leading to a bronze, silver and gold certificate. They will have a series of activities which they can choose from in seven disciplines art, music, design technology, digital skills, physical skills, home help and the wild card.

We will continue to collect house points and credits for the boys, and award Headmaster's Commendations.

There will be a weekly recorded assembly.

Possible questions and answers

How will my child's progress be monitored?

Teachers will be monitoring the boys' online activities and will grade and provide feedback for work that has been requested to be uploaded. Parents and boys can email the relevant member of staff if they have any questions.

What if I have an issue with the online learning platforms?

In the first instance email the relevant member of staff (identified in the online section of this booklet). If you have an IT issue you can email itsupport@themallschool.org.uk and a member of staff will aim to respond to your query within 24 hours.

What are the recorded lessons?

For some of the children's task there will be a recorded lesson available. This is a pre-recorded lesson from a member of staff explaining the task set. Boys can access these from the Assignments app on their Microsoft Office 365 Teams account. We hope this will provide a personal element and be a familiar voice for the children to hear.

What do I do if I cannot access the internet?

Please contact the school office to discuss this further reception@themallschool.org.uk.

How would you suggest my son structures his day?

At the start of the week we will send you a suggested timetable with a brief overview of the activities to be completed. We recognise that some families may wish to complete activities at different times and may not be able to complete all the tasks that have been set. If this is the case please do not stress but email your son's subject teacher if you are concerned about the amount of work your son can do.