

Online Learning Briefing for Students

Updated Monday 25th Jan 2021

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Introduction

While the majority of students are being taught online we have changed the structure of the timetable, and because the initial version proved too intense for many students we have slimmed it down to make it more manageable.

The thinking behind the general approach is that the group size of 14/15 doesn't work so well online when we're trying to get students to discuss ideas, explain reasoning and solve problems together. Small groups are better for this. On the other hand, when we're explaining ideas, introducing new material, setting work etc. we may as well talk to you all at once. We have therefore designed a structure that gives you 2 small group 30 minute "supervisions" per day and 4 longer lectures per day (1 hour).

Supervisions: for these you are expected to speak, explain, ask questions, exchange ideas. Your microphone should be on most of the time, and so should your camera. If you don't want us to see into your bedroom/ home then please use the [Zoom Virtual Background](#) option. While most of these sessions will be quite focused and require you to think on your feet, some will be more relaxed and sociable so that we can check in with you. We'll try to group together people who have similar needs and approaches to learning so that the supervisor can work with you in the most effective way. This will be a bit of a compromise because you will be in the same group for all subjects - but we'll move people between groups when we don't think it's working. We will record these sessions but we probably won't share the link unless you ask for it.

Lectures: for these you can have your microphone switched off most of the time but it's nice if we can see your face on camera so we know you're paying attention. We'll normally record these sessions and share the link later through the classroom or OneNote. Your teacher will be present in the Zoom session throughout but there will be times when they switch off their camera and microphone and leave you to get on with some work for 20-30 minutes. During this time if you get stuck and need help you can message the teacher, show them your work and ask them for a hint.

Links to Zoom meeting rooms

You will need the following links to join the lectures and supervisions. These are removed from this public copy of the instructions for privacy reasons - you will find them in the copy we have shared with students on our Google Drive.

The Supervision Rota

	Mon AM	Mon PM	Tues AM	Tues PM	Weds AM	Weds PM	Thurs AM	Thurs PM	Fri AM	Fri PM
DMH Maths	Picard			Pike			Janeway	Kirk	Kirk	Picard
CT Maths		Pike	Pike	Janeway	Janeway	Kirk	Kirk	Sisko		Sisko
NT Maths	Pike	Janeway	Janeway		Kirk	Sisko		Picard	Picard	Pike
DSH PPEP or Physics	Janeway	Kirk	Kirk	Sisko	Pike	Picard	Picard		Sisko	Janeway
AGS Physics	Kirk	Sisko	Sisko	Picard	Picard	Janeway	Sisko	Pike	Pike	
SW Comp Sci	Sisko	Picard	Picard	Kirk	Sisko	Pike	Pike	Janeway	Janeway	Kirk

Supervision Groups

Picard	Sisko	Pike	Janeway	Kirk
REDACTED				

The timetable

	Mon		Tues		Weds		Thurs		Fri		
0930-1030			Comp Sci Lecture (60)	SW	Maths Lecture (60 mins)	NT	Physics Lecture (60 mins)	AGS	Maths Lecture (60 mins)	DMH	
1030-1115	Maths Lecture (45 mins)	CT	Study Time (& toast!) (45 mins) (go for a walk round the block to get some fresh air?)								
1115-1145	Small group Supervision (30 mins)		Small group Supervision (30 mins)		Small group Supervision (30 mins)		Small group Supervision (30 mins)		Small group Supervision (30 mins)		
1145-1245	Maths Lecture (60 mins)	CT	Maths Lecture (60 mins)	DMH	Comp Sci Lecture (60 mins)	SW	Maths Lecture (60 mins)	NT	Physics Lecture (60 mins)	AGS	
1245-1400	LUNCH BREAK (75 mins) (Get some fresh air?)										
1400-1500	Comp Sci Lecture (60 mins)	SW	Maths Lecture (60 mins)	NT	Maths Lecture (60 mins)	CT	Maths Lecture (60 mins)	NT	Physics Lecture (60 mins)	AGS	
1500-1530	Small group Supervision (30 mins)		Small group Supervision (30 mins)		Small group Supervision (30 mins)		Small group Supervision (30 mins)		Small group Supervision (30 mins)		
1530-1545	BREAK (15 mins)										
1545-1630	Physics Lecture (45 mins)	AGS	Physics Lecture (45 mins)	AGS	Maths Lecture (45 mins)	CT	Comp Sci Lecture (45 mins)	SW	Comp Sci Lecture (45 mins)	SW	
	Evening Study (2 hours) - write up notes in your own words, complete problems, review problems which caused difficulties and tackle extension work if possible		Evening Study (2 hours) - write up notes in your own words, complete problems, review problems which caused difficulties and tackle extension work if possible		Evening Study (2 hours) - write up notes in your own words, complete problems, review problems which caused difficulties and tackle extension work if possible		Evening Study (2 hours) - write up notes in your own words, complete problems, review problems which caused difficulties and tackle extension work if possible		Evening Study (2 hours) - write up notes in your own words, complete problems, review problems which caused difficulties and tackle extension work if possible		

Screen Time

Staring at a screen all day is not great for your eyes. Hopefully the longer breaks we have put in to the timetable will help, but J has found this extra tool that might help:

"I have found some software which you may want to recommend to students, this software is called f.lux (<https://justgetflux.com/>)

The software makes the screen of your computer use warmer colours to not be so harsh on the eyes. It also makes the screen warmer based on sunrise and sunset times in your area and is overall very useful for extended computer usage and has helped me to be able to concentrate on the online lessons for longer and therefore may be worth recommending this to students"

FAQ (from the email sent to students and parents during the Christmas break)

Question: Who will physically attend school from Monday 4th January?

Answer: Students who are vulnerable or who do not have adequate access to the Internet to take part in online lessons should attend school as normal from 1030 on Monday 4th January. We will be contacting students and their parents where we think this is the case, but if you think your wellbeing would benefit from attending in person, please email me and David Hemsley for advice.

Question: What will all other students be doing?

Answer: Students not attending school physically will be learning online, also from January 4th, and attending exactly the same lessons and completing the same work as those attending in person. They will need a laptop or PC with a good Internet connection to access this. They should check their school emails at 1030 on Monday morning. We will set some preparatory work for students to do on Monday morning and live teaching will start after lunch.

Question: What if I don't have a suitable laptop/ desktop PC to study online?

Answer: Students may borrow a school laptop to keep at home for the duration of remote learning. To obtain a laptop simply come to school from 0900 on Monday 4th January. Please contact School Reception if you are unable to travel and need a staff member to bring the laptop to you. We are also able to lend you a tablet and stylus so that you can write into OneNote etc.

Question: Will we follow our normal timetable?

Answer: No. We are planning to try an approach adapted to the purposes of online learning. Essentially this will be a blend of *Lectures* which are Zoom meetings that all students attend at the same time, and *Supervisions* where smaller groups (around 5) of students work with a teacher on solving problems and discussing concepts. Our learning from delivering online learning so far is that large scale lecture delivery can be effective but works best when combined with small group support that ensures students have to be fully alert and engaged. Our intention is to ensure that learning continues at the usual pace during January, with all students actively engaged in learning and not simply spectating lessons. We are also very keen to ensure that students can access additional support when they need it.

Question: What about pastoral support and PPEP lessons?

Answer: We don't currently plan to run the usual daily tutorial sessions but students should contact their form tutor (or, if they prefer, any other member of staff) if there's anything they need support with. Additionally, if students are suffering from loneliness or just feeling the lack of social contact then Kerry, Kathryn and Ellie are very happy indeed to have an online chat with them. Home-learning students really benefited from this last term and the Admin team really appreciate the chance to work closely with students. Just email reception, or your form tutor if you fancy a chat with someone.

