

Year 10 – IT Systems, Homework and Changing Options

Dear Year 10 Parents/ Guardians,

I hope that your child's first couple of weeks at Gillotts School have been enjoyable ones despite or the challenges posed by the Coronavirus pandemic. We are very pleased with the start that Year 10 have made to the new school year.

I am writing to provide you with information about two key elements which support the learning process: our IT systems and homework. I will also provide you with details of how your child may change an option subject if they are considering doing so.

I. IT Systems

BYOD

As you will know we require all students to bring a large-screen mobile device (Chromebook, laptop or tablet) into school to support teaching and learning. This will bring significant additional opportunities because students can make use of their device to connect to the internet as and when they need to:

- Use online quizzes for immediate feedback on learning
- Accessing shared lesson and homework resources in Google Classroom
- Photographing/videoing practical work
- Research
- Accessing specific learning resources, e.g. Maths Watch and Vocab Express
- Accessing GCSE past papers and mark schemes

It is therefore essential that your child has a fully charged mobile device in school every day and has access to a fixed computer or mobile device at home

We have spent the last few days making sure that all Year 10 students are connected to the school wifi system. This is a filtered system which means that students cannot access inappropriate website. Our BYOD Code of Conduct (attached) requires students to use the wifi when in school. If your child is still having problems getting or staying connected, they can contact our IT Services for support either by sending an e-mail to: itservices@gillotts.org.uk or by raising the issue with their form tutor.

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is a very important application which allows teachers to set work and share resources with the students in their class. It also allows students to complete the work online and submit it to their teachers for marking and feedback. It is also the way in which teachers set homework – with the details of the homework and the due date being shared with the students via this application.

2. Homework

We believe that homework is a very important part of the learning process. This is, in part, to support the teaching and learning which takes place in school. It also helps our students develop the independent learning skills that will support them in their post-16 studies and adult life.

The homework itself and any resources required to complete it will be posted by your child's teacher on Google Classroom. The students will receive a notification of this in their e-mail in box and will also be able to see it in the class folders in Google Classroom. It is important that your child follows the instructions given by their teacher.

It is an absolute requirement that homework is completed and submitted on the deadline set. The expectation is that students spend around 2 hours per night on homework in Year 10.

The table below shows the number of times homework should be set in each subject per fortnight and the approximate time it should take:

| Subject | Year Group | Frequency | Time (Approximate) |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| English | Year 10 | Weekly | 1 hour per week |
| | Year 11 | Weekly | 1 hour per week |
| Maths | Year 10 | 2 x Weekly | 1 hour per week |
| | Year 11 | 2 x Weekly | 1 hour per week |
| Science | Year 10 | Weekly | 1 hour per week |
| | Year 11 | Weekly | 1 hour per week |
| RS | Year 10 | Fortnightly | 1 hour per fortnight |
| | Year 11 | Fortnightly | 1 hour per fortnight |
| Option subjects | Year 10 | Weekly | 1 hour per week |
| | Year 11 | Weekly | 1 hour per week |

The school homework timetable can be found on our school website by clicking on the link below:

<http://gillotts.oxon.sch.uk/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/overview>

Your child should know which class they are in for each subject as this is recorded on the front of their exercise books and on the printed copy of their timetable which they were given at the start of term. If they are still unsure, please contact your child's tutor who will be able to help.

3. Changing Options

While the vast majority of students will be happy with the option choices they have made, there is usually a small number of students who would like to make a change. It is important to consider this decision carefully and your child should have a discussion with their tutor in the first instance. The deadline for changing option is the end of this half term. If your child is considering changing an option they should discuss this with their form tutor in the first instance.

4. **Introduction to GCSE Evening**

We are planning to run our Introduction to GCSE Evening in the School Hall from 7pm-8pm on Thursday 30th September. During this event I will explain the key elements of the 9-1 GCSEs and there will also be subject presentations from the English, Maths and Science Subject Leaders. We will be sending out further details about this event shortly.

I would like to once again encourage you to contact your child's form tutor if you have any questions regarding these matters. Please also note that if you have any problems clicking on the web-links above, please copy and paste them into your web browser.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. J. Newbold". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Dr Newbold
Deputy Head