

Year 8 – IT Systems and Homework

Dear Year 8 Parents/ Guardians,

I hope that your child's first couple of weeks at Gillotts School have been enjoyable ones despite the challenges posed by the Coronavirus pandemic. We are very pleased with the start that Year 8 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. 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 large-screen 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 8 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 1 ½ hours per night on homework in Year 8.

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	Frequency	Time (Approximate)
English	Weekly	45 mins per week
Maths	2 x Weekly	45 mins per week
Science	Weekly	45 mins per week
Art	Fortnightly	30 mins per fortnight
Carousel (Computing, Design Technology Drama, Food)	Weekly	30 mins per week each
French	Weekly	45 mins per week
Humanities (Geography, History, RS)	Fortnightly	30 mins per fortnight
Music	Fortnightly	30 mins per fortnight

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 on the first day of term. If they are still unsure, please contact your child's tutor who will be able to help.

We have also updated the Year 8 Curriculum Guide that can be downloaded from the school website by following the link below:

<http://gillotts.oxon.sch.uk/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/years7-9>

This document provides details of the topics that your child will be studying in each subject over the coming year and what you can do as a parent to support your child.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about any of these issues please contact your child's form tutor. 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,

E. J. Newbold

Dr Newbold
Deputy Head