



30 March 2020

Dear Year 7 and 8 Parents, Carers and Guardians,

Thank you all for supporting your child with their learning this week. It will take time for everyone to adjust to this strange situation in which we find ourselves. Following on from the feedback we have received, I just wanted to offer some further advice and guidance with regards to home learning.

We have advised that students follow their school timetable each day in order to consolidate their learning in all subject areas, but please don't feel that they should be completing 5 solid hours of work. I really worry that you will panic and put yourself under pressure to fit in the whole national curriculum. Please don't. If your child feels overwhelmed with work at any point, they will not learn a thing and this is when you need to get your child to relax. We appreciate that they may receive many emails and a continuous stream of homework on GO 4 Schools, but please remind them to stagger their work and just focus on the subjects for that particular day. If your child does become stressed, just keep them interested and engaged in the things they enjoy. If they love cooking, let them cook. If they love PE, let them play in the garden. Don't worry about them falling behind. A love of learning is what we need to keep cultivating and maintaining.

At every single Parents' Evening, teachers always get asked the same thing: "What can my child do to improve?" And our answer is always the same: "Read. Keep reading. The more you read, the greater your knowledge and the more extensive your vocabulary." Encourage your child to read at every opportunity. Get your child to read novels, non-fiction, newspapers, comics, poetry. Just get them to engage with reading everyday. This will be so powerful to their learning.

Also, let your child be wrong. Don't pressure them for the right answer when they work. They are practising and they are allowed to make mistakes. That really is how learning happens. Let them do what they think, then help them to improve. No child ever performed better under pressure. The children who make the most progress are those who are willing to make mistakes, because they are not worried about being wrong. Let your child do that and they will be making brilliant progress.

Finally, please don't worry that you are doing something wrong or teaching them the wrong thing. If you are learning together, so it's enjoyable and not stressful, this is fantastic. Children also love knowing that they have taught adults something new, so allow them to talk to you about what they are learning or if they have asked you something to which you do not know the answer, research together. This will really help their confidence.

These are just suggestions to help support you during this difficult time. We want to work with you to ensure your child is happy and engaged in their learning. Thank you again for everything you are doing to support Lord Grey Academy in continuing to provide your child with a broad and balanced education.

Should you require any further support, or if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,

**Jo Harris.**  
**Assistant Principal, Director of Lower School Achievement.**

