

# CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Launceston Road, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 7DR

Tel: (01579) 383292 Fax: (01579) 383562 E-mail: [enquiries@callingtoncc.net](mailto:enquiries@callingtoncc.net)

Website: [www.callingtoncc.net](http://www.callingtoncc.net)

Principal: Mrs Wendy Ainsworth



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Dear Parents and Carers

## Distance Learning

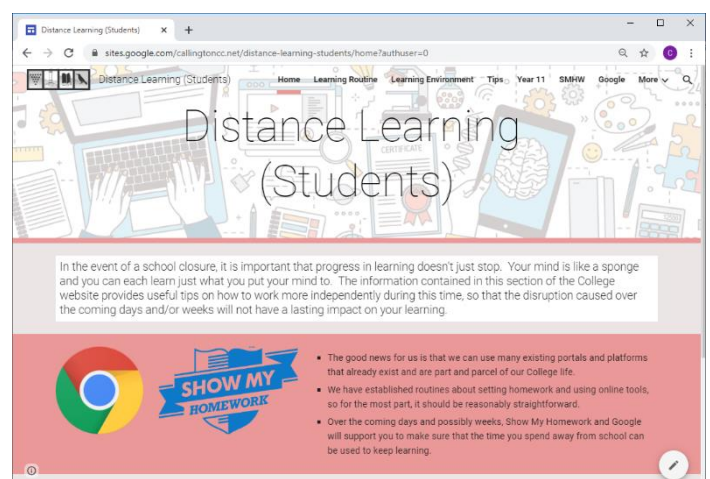
At the time of writing there are no confirmed cases of Covid-19 affecting our learning community. We are continuing to monitor the pandemic closely and follow government advice as to how we should respond. At present Public Health England is not advising schools to close. However, given what has happened in a number of other countries we are continuing to plan for the possibility we may have to close the College at some point.

In order to support online learning from home, should the College be asked to close, there are a number of things that you can do to help:

1. Consider how you can help your child have access to the internet for online learning. In particular, make sure that you and they can access our College website – [www.callingtoncc.net](http://www.callingtoncc.net).
2. Ensure that both you and your child are able to access Show My Homework, as this will be one of the ways that teachers communicate with students about what work to do and when. If you do not have your log-in details, then please email [enquiries@callingtoncc.net](mailto:enquiries@callingtoncc.net).
3. Ensure that your child is able to access their school GMail account.

During the period of time away from the College and direct contact in lessons which has been planned and delivered by teachers, it is important that progress in learning doesn't just stop. A young person's mind is like a sponge. This letter contains useful information to provide tips on how to support your child(ren) during this time, so that the disruption caused over the coming days and/or weeks will not have a lasting impact on our young learners.

In an ideal world, all of our young learners would be able to carefully select the material they have to learn, find the best sources of information for this and carefully piece together a study schedule and stick to it, making sure



themselves that they are using every minute when they would otherwise be in school to do self-guided learning. Doing this is not necessarily as easy as it might seem, and so it is likely that they will need some support, monitoring and most importantly someone to hold them to account (check what they are doing), otherwise they will miss out on maximising their learning opportunities!

We have developed a dedicated area on our website for 'Distance Learning' – click [here](#). Here you will find key information to support home learning provided by teachers. As far as possible, teachers / Curriculum Leaders will update specific tasks for learners to complete using Show My Homework. The good news for us is that we can use many portals and platforms that already exist and are part and parcel of our College life. We have established routines about setting homework and using online tools, so for the most part, it should be reasonably straightforward. Over the coming days and possibly weeks, Show My Homework and Google will support our young people to make sure that the time they spend away from the College can be used to keep learning.

### **I'm not a teacher!**

You don't have to be a teacher or an expert in every, or even any subject to facilitate learning! As a parent/carer, you are likely to have been solely or at least largely responsible for modelling to your child how to walk, speak, listen, eat, hold a book, read, have a conversation etc, all things that we take for granted, but all are amazing bits of learning in their own right. None of our children just started to walk when they woke up one day and decided they'd had enough of rolling around on their back. They practised, with support, demonstration and loads and loads of encouragement (and probably a few bumps and bruises on the way)! Who was doing the hard work? The child! That's how it should be. Advice on creating a productive learning environment in the home on the Distance Learning section of the College website (click [here](#)) should prove helpful.

### **My child is currently in Year 11 – what about the exams in just a few weeks?**

We will make all necessary adjustments to ensure that our learners are not disadvantaged when the exams start. It is likely that Ofqual – the body that oversees examinations in England - will give schools direction on what changes or adjustments will be necessary as more is known about the period of time schools may be closed. It is important to remember that all Year 11 children across the country will be in the same situation.

I am confident that adjustments to exam schedules if appropriate (particularly practical exams or completion of coursework scheduled for the end of April) will be made where necessary to ensure that no young person is disadvantaged due to the closure of schools. One positive in this situation is that content for GCSE and equivalent courses has been largely if not entirely delivered by this point in Year 11, and so time spent revisiting and reactivating prior learning is time well spent.

Learners in lower years will have longer for time away from school to be recovered under the direct guidance of teachers. Whether in Year 11 or Year 8, time spent learning while not in school will give learners a better chance of being successful when you sit exams!

There are many resources available for learners to use – time spent identifying gaps, something that teachers will normally do through assessment, therefore this is time well spent. A learner can test themselves and identify gaps in their knowledge using online materials and then use the gaps identified as a focus for further learning.

### **Reading**

Reading a book or a magazine or information about a topic of interest online is also good use of time as this will help develop vocabulary, imagination and (in the case of non-fiction texts) understanding of the wider world. We recommend at least 30 minutes per day.

### **I'm not able to be at home all day to oversee what goes on – how can I help?**

If several hours of guided activities take place, along the lines suggested above, you should still be able to see, hear and ask questions about what has been done during the day. If activities have been completed using online materials, encourage your child to take notes as they do so as this will

mean they are more actively engaged. Some time talking through what has been done at the end of the day is a good way of holding learners to account for the time they have had available to use for learning.

We hope that the College will remain open and that exams will be unaffected by the Coronavirus epidemic, but by following the advice in this letter you can help your child prepare should the College close. We will continue to use School Comms, our website and social media to update you.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Ainsworth', written in a cursive style.

Wendy Ainsworth  
Principal