

Carleton High School Green Lane Carleton Pontefract West Yorkshire WF8 3NW T: 01977 781555 W: carletonhigh.patrust.org.uk E: admin@carletonhigh.patrust.org.uk

3 April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well. The past few weeks have been a unique and surreal time for all of us, and I would like to say thank you for your continued support. I don't think I ever thought that at any point in my career I would be leading a virtual school!

It has certainly been a very strange time, staff and I are missing the daily interactions with your incredible children who make Carleton a special place to be. We know these measures are necessary to keep all of us safe, but it's good to remind ourselves that it won't last forever. We all look forward to being back together in school when it is safe.

Home learning

I know that you have been receiving plenty of work to support students with their home learning. I would like to say thank you to parents and carers for all that you have been doing to keep learning going during this time. We know that everyone is doing their best; please do not worry if everything is not complete. These are tough times and we understand the different pressures that each family faces, with younger children, work commitments and dealing with self-isolation, for example. Our advice would always be 'best endeavours'. We are setting work, but if there are obstacles to completing it, all we can ever ask of anyone is that they try their best.

It is still early days and we are doing our very best to find the right solutions to continuing your child's education during this unprecedented period of school closure. The work that we are setting and the methods we use will continue to evolve over this time. Please be assured that we will keep you and students updated and supported at each stage.

After Easter, we will continue to set home learning for all our pupils through 'Show My Home Work' (SMHW). This will continue to be the main communication platform and channel for setting work, and a full week of home learning will be provided every Monday. Alongside SMHW, we will also be using Google Classrooms and a number of other online educational software packages. Teachers will assess students understanding over this period of time through a variety of ways, such as online quizzes and self-marked tests, but we will also request key pieces of work to be submitted online for assessment, where appropriate.

As well as academic subject work being set by teachers, we know how important it is for children to develop in other ways too. There are, and will continue to be, optional creative projects for students to dip in and out of, recommendations to learn a new skill, links to online classes and documentaries, and activities linked to mental wellbeing. Some early examples of these are included in the Home Learning Booklet sent with this letter, along with suggestions on how to structure and manage activities within a day at home.

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We will continue to do our best to send work and support pupils, but we know that there are many alternative ways to learn new skills and to develop as young people during this time at home. Please keep sharing your home learning activities so that we can share them with the school community on Twitter. Follow and tag us on Twitter with @PATCarletonHigh. Many of you are sending in photos of the work and activities the students are doing at home, and it's a wonderful opportunity to keep in touch as a community. Please keep them coming!

<u>Easter</u>

Students will not be set work by their teachers during the Easter holidays. Whilst we believe that it is important for students to be able to relax during the Easter holidays, the current situation means that many families won't have the same Easter holidays as they are used to. Plans have likely been cancelled and we know some families would welcome something to do. We have therefore created some optional, fun and enriching activities which will be shared on SMHW. These are not compulsory but might support you over the holidays with different activities to do as individuals or as families.

Award of GCSEs

I wrote to students in Year 11 last week to provide an update. I mentioned that schools were awaiting further guidance from the government, Ofqual and the exam boards as to how this years grades would be awarded. Today, there has been an update provided from the government which can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcses-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020. Once we have digested the information from this announcement, I will update you with further details.

Year 10 Students

I understand that many of our students, particularly year 10, will be concerned about the impact the school closure will have on their GCSEs next year. Please try to reassure them that every student in the country will be in the same position, and the important thing is to complete their home learning to the best of their abilities. Students can ask their teachers for help through SMHW if they require further support, or request additional work if they want to stretch themselves further.

Please be assured that teachers will be in regular contact with parents if they feel year 10 students are getting behind with their work. We want to ensure all students have the best chance of reaching their full potential in year 11. Our teachers will also be using their time not only to plan varied, interesting and engaging work for students to be doing at home, but also to consider how we can adjust what we do when they return to school to maximise their individual progress and ensure that they are not disadvantaged by the closure.

Feedback on home learning

We recognise that this mode of learning is new for everyone and whilst initial feedback seems very positive, we are keen to hear your opinions in order to make the next steps with home learning after the Easter break. Put simply, if certain things need changing and improving, then we need to know so that we can act upon it swiftly. We would greatly appreciate it if you (we encourage both students and parents to fill this in together if possible) could possibly take five minutes to fill in the survey via the link below:

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TRH3GYD

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Communication and keeping in touch

Please remember, although we may not be seeing each other regularly, Carleton remains your school and we want to do everything we can to support all our families during this difficult time.

Our main method of communication during this period of school closure will be through email and text using the details you have already provided. I urge you to provide us with any updates to mobile phone numbers and email addresses for yourself and other contacts registered for your child. If your child normally receives a free school meal, your weekly voucher will be sent to the mobile phone number we hold for you. For any changes to contact details or queries regarding free school meals please email: admin@carletonhigh.patrust.org.uk.

And finally...

I am very mindful that the school community has lived online for the last two weeks, and that this may continue for some time. So for now, try to have a break from that "virtual world" over Easter; stay safe, look after each other and have a good Easter.

Yours faithfully

5055

Jo Cross Head of School



Home Learning Booklet

This booklet has been created to support you with your learning at home.



CARLETON HIGH SCHOOL



Learning at Home

Inside this booklet you'll find hints and tips for how to manage these strange days of learning at home.

We want you to not just survive, but thrive! You'll find sections on

- Considering a daily schedule
- Example daily schedule
- Your daily schedule
- Celebrity online learning at home
- Motivation
- Keeping focused
- Building in Rewards
- Apps for feeling organised
- A healthy working environment

- Key online platforms
- Recommended weblinks for creative family activities
- Recommended documentaries
- Family Activities
- Looking after your mental wellbeing at home
- Feeling anxious or worried
- Advice for parents and carers

Top tips for learning at home

Considering a daily schedule

You've spent your whole life working to a schedule, so it makes sense for your mental wellbeing to keep one up now. It really will make the days feel more normal. Try out your own version!

| Before the day starts | Have a bit of breakfast, (tea and toast? fruit?) check the weather, wave to the birds, and get yourselves ready for the day! Don't stay in your pyjamas all day, you'll feel sleepy. |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 9am-9:30am FITNESS | PE with Joe Wickes on YouTube. It's great to start your day with something active, and join in the millions of other people doing the same thing. If Joe Wickes is not for you, what other workouts can you recommend? |
| 9:30-10:30am LEARNING | Have a look at some of the English, Maths or Science work – really get stuck into one or two of these. If something grabs your attention, why not research around it – what else can you find out or create to match the topic? |
| 10:30-11am BREAK | Have a break – a breath of fresh air in the garden or just stood at an open window for a bit – something to drink, maybe a snack, and ring or message a friend. We need to keep in touch – how are they feeling today? Do a chore – empty the bin, collect the washing, sweep the floor – how can you help? |
| 11am-12pm LEARNING | Time to look at your other subjects. You could practice some Languages vocab every day for a week to get it glued into your mind. What is the History focus – can you link it to other things you want to learn about? What examples can you find from the Geography focus that are amazing that you could share? |
| 12-12:30 LUNCH | Lunchtime – what would be a healthy choice? (Or a real treat!!!???) It's all in the presentation – how can you make a cheese sandwich look a bit lively, and different to yesterday? Don't forget to wash your hands! |
| 12:30-1pm FAMILY TIME | Family time Although you may be driving each other crazy, take the time to ask questions you never have. What was mum's favourite song when she was your age? Can you find it online and can she still sing it? Ring or FaceTime other family members while you are together – it'll be noisy and silly but helps us feel better. Make sure you have a bad joke ready to tell! |
| 1pm-1:30pm READING | Reading time. Keeping up with reading is one of the best things you can do with this time. Check SMHW for instructions on how to access a massive free online library. Are there books in the house you've never tried, or not read for ages? Relax into a book or magazine. |
| 1:30-2:30pm CREATIVE TIME | Creative projects. Check out SMHW over the next few weeks for some ideas, as simple as drawing a picture, through to redesigning your bedroom, creating a historical toilet roll tube collection, or upcycling clothes, singing, or practicing a lip synch challenge. Let's see what you can do! |
| After school time | Get a bit of fresh air with the family, as long as you stay safe and stick to social distancing guidance. What games did you used to play outside? Have some fun and be active. Nothing wrong with a bit of gaming or TV time – there are some fantastic programmes to watch on free services! Or drift away with some music, or a book. Paint your nails, master the x-box, aim for the world record on keepie-uppies – what could you do? |

Example daily schedule

| | Before learning | 9.00- 9.30 | 9.30- 10.30 | 10.30-11.00 | 11.00- 12.00 | 12.00- 12.30 | 12.30-13.00 | 13.00- 13.30 | 13.30- 14.30 | After learning |
|-------|---|----------------------------|----------------|---|--|-----------------|---|---|--|--|
| Mon | Get ready for the day! Get up, get dressed, have breakfast. | PE with Joe Wicks | English | Break time. Facetime a friend. | History | Lunchtime | Facetime a family member and ask how they are | Reading time. Check SMHW for ideas. | Creative time. Check SMHW for ideas. | Keepie- uppies. Challenge a friend to see who gets most |
| Tues | Get ready for the day! Get up, get dressed, have breakfast | YouTube HIIT workout | Maths | Break time. Complete a household task e.g. empty the bin. | Geography | Lunchtime | Find out five things you never knew about a family member | Reading time. Check SMHW for ideas. | Creative time. Check SMHW for ideas. | Paint your nails. |
| Weds | Get ready for the day! Get up, get dressed, have breakfast. | PE with Joe Wicks | Science | Get some fresh air in the garden. | MFL | Lunchtime | Facetime a family member and ask how they are | Reading time. Check SMHW for ideas. | Creative time. Check SMHW for ideas. | Watch a movie with your family, or facetime a friend & watch together! |
| Thurs | Get ready for the day! Get up, get dressed, have breakfast. | YouTube HIIT workout | English | Break time. Facetime. Facetime a friend. | Social Sciences | Lunchtime | Find out five things you never knew about a family member | Reading time. Check SMHW for ideas. | Creative time. Check SMHW for ideas. | Go on a walk with members of your household. |
| Fri | Get ready for the day! Get up, get dressed, have breakfast. | PE with Joe Wicks | Maths | Break time. Complete a household task – ask how you can help. | MFL – Why not try a new language with Rosetta Stone? | Lunchtime | Facetime a family member and ask how they are | Reading time. Check SMHW for ideas. | Creative time. Check SMHW for ideas. | Play your favourite game |

Your daily schedule

Have a go at completing your own schedule.

| | Before learning | 9.00- 9.30 | 9.30- 10.30 | 10.30- 11.00 | 11.00- 12.00 | 12.00- 12.30 | 12.30- 13.00 | 13.00- 14.00 | 14.00- 15.00 | After learning |
|-------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Mon | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tues | | | | | | | | | | |
| Weds | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thurs | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fri | | | | | | | | | | |

Celebrity online learning at home

They couldn't possibly be better than Carleton staff, but give them a try!

| PE with Joe Wicks | English with David Walliams and Hollywood stars |
|--|---|
| Ensuring children around the country are getting regular exercise in quarantine | David Walliams has announced he'll be releasing a new audio story every day |
| is Joe Wicks - also known as The Body Coach - who is live streaming virtual PE | for a month for free. First up was <i>The Terrible Triplets</i> , which can be accessed |
| lessons via his YouTube channel at 9am from Monday to Friday for the | via his website - and is, of course, narrated by the star himself. |
| foreseeable future. <u>https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1/featured</u> | <u>https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/</u> |
| Music with Myleene Klass | History with Dan Snow (no, that's not our Mr Snowden!) |
| The pop-star-turned-radio-host, Myleene Klass is also a talented classical pianist | TV presenter Dan Snow invites you to his History Hit streaming service which |
| and knows her major from her minor scales. The singer is giving free music | allows you to access documentaries on everything from Jack The Ripper to the |
| lessons via YouTube for little ones stuck at home - and has invited people to | events of 1066. It can be accessed for free for 30 days, and the following |
| tune into her next "klass" each week. | month for just a quid, as part of special offer. There's also a free podcast too. |
| https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQh2wgJ5tOrixYBn6jFXsXQ | https://www.historyhit.com/ |
| Food Tech with Jamie Oliver | Maths with Carol Vorderman |
| Jamie Oliver is back on screens with Channel 4's Keep Cooking and Carry On - | Who else could the nation trust to get their kids brushing up on their |
| broadcast every week night at 5.30pm - that promises to show viewers how to | algebra? None other than former Countdown host Carol |
| make "easy-to-follow, super-flexible recipes" including fresh homemade pasta. | Vorderman, of course, who is giving children free access to her |
| <u>https://www.channel4.com/</u> | online maths school until they're back in the classroom. |
| Dance with Oti Mabuse | Geography with Steve Backshall |
| Oti Mabuse and her husband are giving daily dance classes on her YouTube | Remember Deadly 60? Naturalist and wildlife expert Steve Backshall will |
| channel on <u>https://www.youtube.com/user/mosetsanagape</u> | be giving lessons on his area of expertise, with his first virtual class |
| Or you could join Australian pro dancer Dianne Buswell who taught her | already having taken place last week. He says, "9:30am (GMT) Weds |
| followers how to do the Charleston, Samba, Hip Hop, and more with the help | 25th March I'll be live on Facebook, Instagram AND YouTube. From |
| of 28-year-old boyfriend Joe Sugg - and posted the tutorial on | habitats to holotypes, parasites to pademelons, I'll do my best to bring the |
| her YouTube channel. | wild world into your living room, from my living room!" |
| <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHEPUmv8I5qYfiqTWe5n8RQ</u> | https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm-URP49TgSgyIU1rgh2m7A |

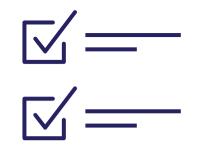
Top tips for learning at home **Motivation**



Set yourself goals each day.



Keep in touch with others who are in the same situation. It's what teenagers fin the most helpful to keep on track.



Work towards completing a task



Ask those around you to get involved with your learning.



At least 20 minutes a day of any physical activity can create a positive mental attitude.



Learning at home, to this extent, isn't something you've ever had to do before, so be kind to yourself and allow time to get used to the new learning routine.

Keeping focused

For every 50 to 60 minutes of study time, plan a 10 to 15 minute break.

When taking a break, get a healthy snack for an energy boost, be active and take a short walk, or listen to music.



Schedule time for additional learning when you are at yourmostfocused and alert. For example, you might find that you retain more information during the morning.



Evaluate your plan every few days – is it continuing to work and keeping you busy?

Creative Projects

It can't all be work, work, work. There are always a range of optional creative projects on SMHW for you to choose from. Have a go at something arty, something silly, or even download Rosetta Stone and have a go at a new language. Taking a break from the ordinary and doing something creative is just as important for your brain and wellbeing.

Building in rewards



Having a cup of tea or coffee.



Eating your favourite healthy snack.



Watching television during your breaks



Chatting to friends online during your breaks.

Reading a chapter from your favourite book.



Give yourself a pat on the back! You're moving forward!

Healthy Diet, Healthy Brain

Many foods can help to keep your brain healthy.

Some foods, such as fruits and vegetables, as well as tea and coffee, have antioxidants that help protect your brain from damage. Others, such as nuts and eggs, contain nutrients that support memory and brain development.

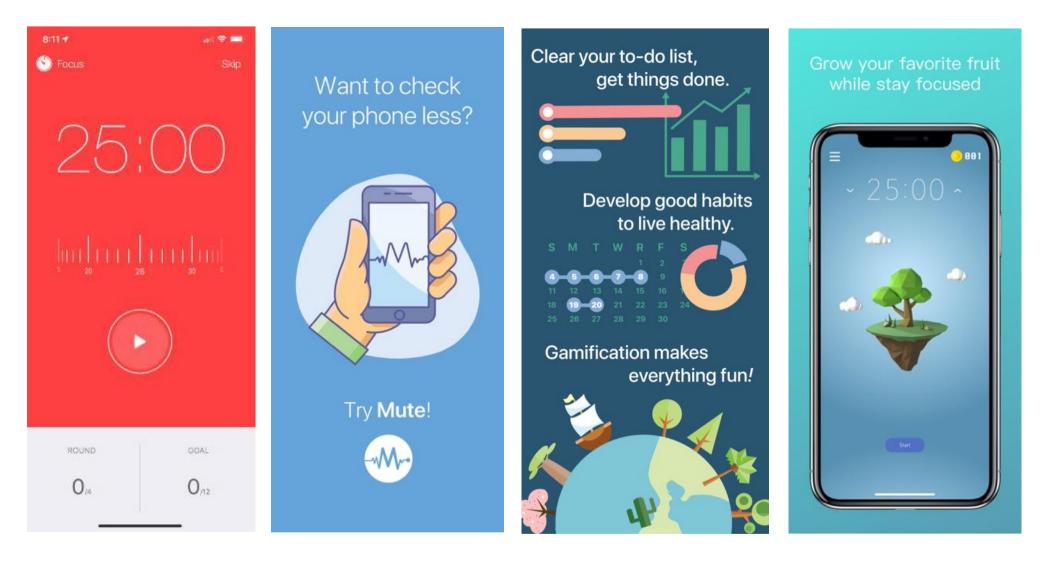
- Fruits and berries apples are high in fibre and vitamin C. They make the perfect snack if you are hungry between meals.
- Strawberries are highly nutritious and low in both carbs and calories.
- Nuts and seeds almonds are loaded with vitamin E, antioxidants and fibre.
- Vegetables carrots are full of fibre and vitamin K and make a quick, preparation-free snack.
- Potatoes are loaded with potassium and contain a little bit of almost every nutrient you need, including vitamin C.

Unhealthy treats are great every now and again, but...

...fruit and veg are a reward for your brain and body.

Apps for feeling organised

There are loads of free apps to help you feel organised, stay on track keep focus and even mute social media. Try Mute, Focus Keeper, Flora, Plantie or search in the App Store. Feeling organised is half the battle!



A healthy working environment



Get started early – pretend youare going to school (try not to stay in your pjs!).



Take regular breaks! You need to move, hydrate, get air, and speak to people!



Follow a structured day (see diary planner).



Have a quiet space with few distractions.



Choose a workspace that is comfortable to set out what you need. An organised workspace helps create calm



Limit your social media time (use it as a reward!).

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Try to work in a cool, bright space.



Aim to sit at a desk in a comfortable chair, slouching won't help you work efficiently (everything will take longer!).

You might have a peaceful study to yourself – but you're more likely to have to share space, and we know that noise and distractions will happen. It's ok! It can't be perfect all the time! However, see if you agree with your family some time in the day when everyone will be peaceful, and maybe smaller brothers and sisters have something to occupy them? You do need SOME quiet working time.

Key online platforms



A hegartymaths





Other links

www.senecalearning.com

Activities, quizzes and tests for all subjects (worksheets also available for download).

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

Short videos, clips and activities to test knowledge in a variety of subjects.

www.gcsepod.com

Thousands of 3-5 bursts of learning, testing knowledge in a wide range of topics and subjects.

https://ed.ted.com/lessons

Different lessons every day on a range of subjects.

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BBB Bitesize





Recommended web links for creative family activities



All the latest magical treats to keep you occupied, including special contributions, nifty magical craft videos (teach your friends how to draw a Niffler!), fun articles, quizzes, puzzles and plenty more for first-time readers, as well as mega fans! https://www.wizardingworld.com/collections/harry-potter-at-home

The Wildlife Trust

Family activities to stay connected to nature, from making compost, nature spotting from the window, or even nature themed yoga!



https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/kids-and-families

TATE KIDS Tate Kids

You may never have tried soap carving or textile weaving but now you can. On Tate Kids all the family can access craft tutorials and submit work for their online galleries.

Recommended documentaries

- Journey to the Edge of the Universe YouTube
- Planet Earth/Planet Earth 2 Netflix/BBC iPlayer
- Blue Planet Netflix/BBC iPlayer
- World War 2 in Colour (2009) Netflix
- Natural World BBC iPlayer
- Civilizations BBC iPlayer
- Digging for Britain BBC iPlayer
- The Secret Life of Books BBC iPlayer
- Earth from Space BBC iPlayer

Plus...

Science with Professor Brian Cox

Don't forget about physics, which Professor Brian Cox single-handedly credited with getting the nation more interested in galaxies and gravity - has promised to help with in the coming weeks.

The TV star confirmed he'll announce on Twitter "as things get organised". It's worth staying tuned.

Family activities

We don't get time to play together as often as we should – make it part of everyday family time. Whether you're baking, playing cards or board games, playing charades, spotting wildlife out the window, or just having a walk together, it's good to talk. Coming up with a family quiz for 'Who knows us all best' can reveal a few funny surprises – who knew Mum won a prize for singing!

Try some of the following when the weather is looking grim and you are sick of the sight of Netflix!

Create a family tree Dear future me Researchers discovered that finding out about relatives and Parents can bring out pencils and postcards for their children to ancestors can help give young people more perspective and pen a message to their future selves. learn resilience. The person arranging the game should set out exactly how far Look at the lives of relatives who are in living memory and put the messages will go into the future, after which they may read together their pictures and stories to create mini biographies. out one another's entry. The cards should stay un a safe place Ringing elderly relatives to ask for their recollections is also a until the designated "future" point when the writers can read great way to keep in touch if they are also in isolation. them.

Take virtual tours

The museums and art galleries may be closed but if your teenager wants to expand their horizons, there are now virtual tours of thousands of the world's most important museums, including the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam and the Guggenheim in New York. The tours are so good it's like you are actually wandering through the corridors and you can zoom in to view any masterpieces you fancy.

Look up the museums' websites for more details.

Check SMHW for LOADS more creative activities to do together as a family – maybe the photography competition, or Senora's 'make monopoly in Spanish' idea!

Looking after your mental wellbeing while at home

Being a teenager at this time can be tough; although the idea of no school can seem amazing, being at home all the time can sometimes be difficult to handle. We all need to take care of our mental wellbeing. Here are some tips to help you.

| Be safe and stay connected Self-isolation doesn't mean cutting off all communication, in fact, it's more important than ever to talk and listen, share stories and advice, and stay in touch with the people who matter to you. | Take notice of things that make you feel good Eating healthy food, keeping moving by going out for walks or exercising can help us to feel good. Notice the beauty outside your window or on a walk around the block, taking time to acknowledge people you see |
|--|---|
| <u>Go on an information mini-break</u> The endless updates from news outlets and people on social media can be completely overwhelming. Pick one trusted source of information and visit it once a day only. | Share how you're feeling Talk to loved ones and friends. Talking has the effect of lifting our mood and really helps us to begin to feel more positive if we're having a tough time |
| Keep moving Find ways to move your body and your mood every day. It's OK to go for a walk, run or ride your bike, as long as you avoid other people. | Stick to a routine This sounds dull but it will help you get through each day. Go to sleep and wake up at the same time, eat regularly, shower, change your clothes, get some fresh air, book in video-chats with colleagues or friends, do your chores. Make time for fun! |

Find ways to relax and distract

Finding things that help you breathe deeply, consciously setting your worries aside or focusing on the moment to recharge can be helpful. Distracting yourself by watching films or TV programmes, reading or listening to music will help you to set things in context and provide relief from anxious feelings.

Feeling anxious or worried?

These are worrying times for all of us, but it's important to use the friends and family that you have to talk about any worries about coronavirus and self-isolation, and find a way to feel calm and protected.

Following the government guidance about staying home is the first step.

Please speak to someone about it. There's plenty of advice out there about how to manage anxiety and worries. You could try visiting these websites:

www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters

www.headspace.com/covid-19

https://youngminds.org.uk/

https://www.kooth.com/

Which activities do young people find helpful and unhelpful for their mental health?

Helpful Unhelpful 3% Face-to-face calls with friends 72% 72% 6% Watching TV / films 7% Exercise 60% Learning new skills 59% 4% Reading books 55% 6% Gaming 49% 5% Face-to-face calls with family 47% 8% 48% Spending time with family 23% Breathing techniques 38% 14% Social media 31% 36% Reading / watching the news 13% 66%

Source: YoungMinds survey carried out between 20-25 March

BBC

If you need help or feel unsafe

If you are worried at home and think you may be unsafe, we are still here to help you. If you feel unsafe, and you think you need an adult to help, we are here. Ring school on 01977 781555 or email us on <u>admin@carletonhigh.patrust.org.uk</u> and we will get back to you. The following agencies are also available to help.

ChildLine: Samaritans: Beat : Runaway Helpline: Kooth: Papyrus: Tel:0800 1111 Tel: 116 123 Tel: 0808 8010711 Tel: 116 000 Tel: Online chat only Tel: 0800 0684141 Web: www.childline.org.uk Web: www.samaritans.org Web: www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk Web: www.runawayhelpline.org.uk Web: www.kooth.com Web: www.papyrus-uk.org

Survey of 2.111 young people with mental health needs

Top Tips for Learning at Home Advice for parents and carers

As students and their families are very familiar with Show My Home Work (SMHW) we will continue to use this as the main communication platform for setting all work.

Alongside SMHW, we will also be using Google Classrooms and a number of other online educational software packages that students are already familiar with, such as Hegarty Maths and Kerboodle for Science.

Teachers set work through Show My Homework on a weekly basis, with new work being available each Monday.

There will always be additional optional creative projects for students to try as they wish.

In the first instance, students should check Show My Homework to see the tasks assigned. From here, teachers may direct students to other online learning platforms.

Of course we understand that not all families will have access to internet or a device, so please get in contact with us to let us know if you need us to provide support through paper resources, although we know that even limited internet access so students can see the set tasks is better than working from printed versions.

Further support information for SMHW and Google Classroom log in and use can be found on our website.

Having tried the information online, should you be experiencing problems with logging on, or with any aspect of home learning, then please email: admin@carletonhigh.patrust.org.uk

Your email will then be directed to a member of staff who will be able to support you with your query.

Communications and feedback

Teachers will assess students understanding over this period of time through a variety of ways such as online quizzes and self marked tests, but we will also request key pieces of work to be submitted online for assessment, where appropriate. This submission is easiest through Google classroom.

Students can send and receive messages from their teachers on SMHW for clarification on any work set.

Further advice for parents

Structure and work

Regardless of your child's age, it is important to have a schedule for them during their additional time at home. Educators recommend providing structure to each day by allocating time to different activities and sticking to this on a day-to-day basis.

Home learning doesn't mean that you have to be the teacher. Use the things available to you, such as work sent by the school or the many online free resources.

It's also OK to decide when your child has had enough work. We know not everyone will be able to complete everything – try to be flexible and concentrate on what you see as the priorities for them right now.

Exercise

Try to fit exercise into the daily routine. If outdoor activity isn't an option, there are many workouts or yoga classes for young people available on websites such as YouTube – Joe Wickes is a good starting point.

Have daily 'check-ins'

Make sure at least one parent checks-in with the child every day. Taking time each day to ask about their day and how they are feeling gives the child an opportunity to share any worries or concerns they might have. It's very easy when you're looking at the Internet to feel more anxious because there's different news coming out all the time. A daily check-in is beneficial for both sides as the adult knows what the young adult is worried about and they know there's an expectation to share worries every day.

Encourage contact with friends

It's easier for teenagers than children in this lockdown period as they're used to having remote contact with their friends on social media. Parents should encourage their children to stay in contact with people who are important to them. Everybody in the family needs their own support network. It might not be the same for each person.'

If you are concerned about their time spent online, the following organisations can provide useful advice.

CEOP

www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

The Children's Commissioner 'Digital 5 a Day' www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/our-work/digital/5-aday

Net Aware NSPCC www.net-aware.org.uk

NSPCC Online Safety Helpline 0808 800 5002