

10th June 2020

Dear Students,

I hope this finds you well and that you have settled in successfully to our Guided Distance Learning Programme programme.

I'm writing to let you know about a change we are making to our online learning policy, following the feedback you gave on the recent student survey.

We would like to encourage you to turn on your webcams when you are taking part in a Google Meet, to help keep up the momentum of online learning through the last few weeks before the summer break.

The reason we would like you to turn your cameras on is that we feel that it will significantly improve your learning. Having your camera on will enable teachers to support you much more effectively and to help you make progress through the activities in the Google Meet. We hope that having your camera on will encourage you to participate fully and actively in discussions. During this time of relative isolation, we also feel that seeing your teacher and classmates' faces and reactions during class is valuable. Our Leighton Park community is at the heart of everything we do as a school, and having your webcams on during Google Meet lessons is one way of sustaining this community during this unusual period.

To have your webcams on, you will need to make sure:

- You get up on time and are ready for lessons in the morning.
- You have dressed appropriately for lessons.
- You are working in an appropriate location. If you need to work in your bedroom, please make sure nothing inappropriate is in view. You must not be in bed!
- You abide by the high standards of behaviour we always expect of Leighton Park students the cameras should aid your learning, not become a distraction.
- You turn off your camera if asked to by the teacher, or if there is a sensible reason to do so.

Whilst we understand that there may well be times when you have a reason to prefer your camera is kept off, we are making it part of our Guided Distance Learning Programme policy that we would encourage students to have their cameras on as a 'default' at the start of lessons. If this is something you're not comfortable with, please do have a chat with your teacher or tutor - we are here to support you.

Your teachers have been impressed at the way in which you have coped admirably with the change to our mode of learning, rising to the challenges that we have had to tackle together. We hope you will agree that it is the right decision to continue to evolve our policies, in response to our experience in online lessons, in order to make sure that your learning experience is of the highest possible standard.

If you have any queries or suggestions, I would welcome your feedback and responses, so please do get in touch.

With best wishes,

1. Porterland

Jenny