

W

WORTH ONLINE

LENT TERM 2021

OUR VIRTUAL SCHOOL

- ACADEMIC CURRICULUM
- ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT
- CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES
- PASTORAL SUPPORT
- WORSHIP AND FAITH FORMATION



A WORD FROM OUR NEW DEPUTY HEAD (ACADEMIC)

We are pleased to offer a strong and coherent academic, co-curricular and spiritual provision this term via *Worth Online*. Our expert and dedicated staff are looking forward to providing continuity and stability in these times.

We look forward greatly to all being back together again as soon as it is safe to be so. In the meantime, we will be working tirelessly to strengthen even further our online provision to make sure it offers the best possible experience for our pupils.

We believe that learning for its own sake is vitally important. We must also keep working to ensure outcomes are as strong, if not stronger, than last year's outcomes. We will ensure every pupil is given the opportunity to develop their abilities and talents via a personalised curriculum.

Having just obtained a very strong set of A Level and IB results from the extra winter session, we are looking forward to building on this success so that every pupil may flourish. We will personalise further our online offering by having more regular tutorials allowing pupils to take ownership of their online experience and to relay any concerns, questions or suggestions about how to further enhance their experience. As ever, we welcome input from parents and pupils. We cannot wait to get started. Please do get in touch with me at any time, I would love to hear from you.

Mrs Alice McNeill
Deputy Head (Academic)





When the School switched to *Worth Online* last March, the move from classrooms to live teaching via video links was as seamless as possible. Here is a selection of comments we received from parents ...



“OUR SON HAS HAD A UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCE – NOT ONE THAT MANY CHILDREN HAVE HAD. QUITE FRANKLY, WORTH HAS BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF INCREDIBLE.”



“It is a stroke of genius that an online school has been set up. Great for focus, continuity and direction; thank you for normalising things in a very abnormal situation.”

“We have been hugely impressed with the ways in which the School and the entire Worth community have responded, supported each other and provided an environment for our children to retain as much normality as has been safe and feasible.”

“THE ASSEMBLIES, WEEKEND LECTURES, WEEKLY WORSHIP AND HOUSE SESSIONS ARE ALL REALLY WONDERFUL AND SHOW WORTH’S TRUE CARING ETHOS AND BROADNESS OF APPROACH.”



WE WERE EXTREMELY IMPRESSED BY WORTH’S ABILITY TO MOVE LESSONS ONLINE SO QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY. OUR SON HAS TOTALLY ENGAGED WITH THE ONLINE LEARNING.”

“We feel confident that he is receiving the direction and focus he needs.”



THE ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

We have been delighted with the response to *Worth Online* and the way that the pupils have adapted to this way of working. We are continually developing our provision, seeking feedback and improving our provision in the light of best practice. We have our own in-house innovation team working cross-departmentally called Technology, led by Mrs Flint. We offer:

- Focused, interactive lessons from expert teachers following the *Worth Online* timetable;
- Lessons on Google Meet and resources on Google Classroom;
- Prep and assignments set on Satchel:One (formerly Show My Homework);
- Tutorials or House time every weekday morning at 8.30am;
- Revision sessions for Year 11 on Tuesday and Thursday P7 with some also on Saturday mornings;
- Ongoing availability of academic tutors throughout the week;
- Full and ongoing expert assessment support and advice for Year 11 and 13;
- Support and advice from the teacher team on Saturday morning bookable via SchoolCloud;
- Support for Extended Project Qualification.



THE TIMETABLE

Pupils are asked to continue to follow their regular timetable (available to pupils on the [Pupil Portal](#) and parents on the [School Portal](#)).

We have, however, made some minor tweaks to the weekly structure for the coming period. The changes are highlighted in the table below. Links to video streams for assembly and worship, in some instances pre-recorded, will be sent out by email in advance.

The survey of parents conducted at the beginning of the first lockdown returned a clear preference for Saturday morning lessons to be temporarily relocated within the Monday to Friday timetable, but for opportunities for academic enrichment to be in place in their stead. We will be following the same pattern during this lockdown.

WEEK A & B	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
08.30 – 08.45	Tutorial/Assembly	House Time	Tutorial	House Time	Tutorial	
08.50 – 09.45	Saturday Period 1 Lesson	Period 1	Wednesday Worship/SMSC	Period 1	Period 1	Academic & Wider Curricular Enrichment [OPTIONAL]
09.50 – 10.45	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	
Break						
11.10– 12.05	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	
12.10 – 13.05	Period 4a	Period 4a	Period 4a	Period 4a	Period 4a	
13.10 – 14.05	Period 4b	Period 4b	Period 4b	Period 4b	Period 4b	
14.10 – 15.05	Period 5	Period 5	Saturday Period 2 Lesson	Period 5	Period 5	
15.10 – 16.05	Period 6	Period 6	Saturday Period 3 Lesson	Period 6	Period 6	
Break						
16.15 – 17.10	Period 7	Activities/Societies	Wednesday Period 1	Activities/Societies	Period 7	



ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Academic enrichment opportunities are aplenty at Worth, even in lockdown. Please visit our *Worth Online* [Academic Enrichment](#) page which includes links to a variety of activities and clubs that can be accessed and carried out at home.

The site provides a range of opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of specific subject areas through various mediums. This is an excellent way for pupils to challenge themselves regardless of levels of ability.

There will also be optional academic and wider curricular enrichment opportunities on Saturday mornings which will include lectures and talks, plus support and advice from a team of teachers via School Cloud.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) offers Sixth Form pupils the opportunity to study a topic in depth and produce a final dissertation or project. It is a free-standing qualification worth the equivalent of half an A Level. Its purpose is to add a further dimension to Sixth Form study and to stretch the more ambitious scholar. It is highly valued by universities and offers an excellent opportunity for pupils to pursue an area of interest during lockdown. Mr Phillips will launch the EPQ to Year 12 on Saturday morning via a Google Meet.

Please contact Mr Williams for all queries regarding academic and wider curricular enrichment.

THE CO-CURRICULUM

This term pupils will be able to access a bespoke wider curriculum through our [Co-Curriculum Activities](#) page which contains a variety of activities, clubs and societies which can be accessed and carried out from home. The site focuses on three main themes: Physical, Skills and Volunteering and includes challenges, team-work, competitions and personal development. Parents may also wish to take advantage of some of the ideas either individually or alongside their children.

Mr Burton and the PE and Games Department will lead the online physical activity programme this term. This is vital for pupil health and wellbeing especially during the winter months and we encourage all pupils to engage during their PE/Games lessons with the variety of general health and fitness programmes as well as skills based sessions and challenges on offer. These will focus on specific sports which would normally be offered at school in the Lent Term so will be either football, netball or fitness based. There are video and coaching point resources for each session and there will be some live classes to join in too. Sessions are differentiated to suit year group, standard and personal circumstance and there will be several options for the pupils to choose from for each session. These will be published each week on Satchel:One, to coincide with the times particular year groups would normally have Games. The balance of an holistic education is important and we would ask parents to encourage their children to participate as much as possible, both in PE and Games lessons and during the times dedicated to activities, clubs and societies (Tuesdays and Thursdays Period 7).

Please contact Mr Williams for all queries regarding the Co-Curriculum.





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

We are currently working hard to explore ways of completing the Expedition sections later in the year. However, should this prove difficult, the Award has introduced a new 'Certificate of Achievement' for every level as long as participants complete their Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections.

Pupils should keep their <https://edofe.org/> profiles updated. The remote activities on offer through *Worth Online* are ideal ways in which these sections can be completed effectively during this period of isolation and the following link will also prove especially helpful

<https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/>

School staff can act as supervisors (with notice) and sign off any relevant sections providing suitable evidence is submitted. Individuals outside of school may continue to be delegated as supervisors for specific activities. Family members may also act as activity supervisors, but cannot write Assessor Reports. These must be completed by a non-family member who has some oversight or a member of School staff providing suitable evidence is submitted.

Finally, it should be emphasised that, even though we are experiencing a difficult time, the Award 'belongs' to each pupil and it remains their responsibility to fulfil all the requirements laid down by the scheme.

Please contact Mr Williams for all queries regarding the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.





PASTORAL SUPPORT

HsMs will continue to offer pastoral support in a variety of ways. During the lockdown last spring this included daily assemblies, year group chats, and wellbeing initiatives. Our aim is that our pastoral provision continues to ensure that every pupil feels fully supported. Parents are welcome to contact their child's tutor, HsM or Ms Chamberlain if they have worries about how the impact of continued Covid restrictions on their child's wellbeing.

The *Worth Online* timetable includes time to catch up with tutors and all pupils are encouraged to be active participants in tutor times. Contact will continue between HsMs, parents and pupils by email, phone and video meet.

In recognition of the fact that pupils' personal and social development continues to be benefit from support, we will continue to run our SMSC programme remotely. This half term's topics cover a range of issues from Year 7 exploring the impact of vaping, smoking and alcohol through Year 9 tackling discrimination and prejudice-based bullying to Year 12 discussing the foundations of relationships that last and key health issues that might arise during their lifetime.

“One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone”

St Mary's HsM Miss Rule:

"House 'Meets' last time became more a Lockdown Bake Off Show and Tell, with various pets thrust in front of the camera. While in their home environment, the girls were more relaxed and it made for a much more natural chat. Covid and time zones separated us for many months yet Meets allowed us to maintain the sense of unity and longing to be together again... "



Chapman HsM Mr Macdonald:

"When in school the pupils in the House check in with me at least twice a day, so it is crucial to be able to keep that conversation going during Worth Online so I can offer support however it is needed."

GETTING THE MOST FROM WORTH ONLINE

The School expects you to observe the same high standards of behaviour in the remote learning environment, such as Google Meet, as in a real classroom.

Be ready to start the lesson on time:

If you are in a time zone which means that you cannot join a lesson or lessons on time, your parents are asked to contact your Housemaster/mistress so that all of your teachers know in advance why you are not there.

Be ready to learn:

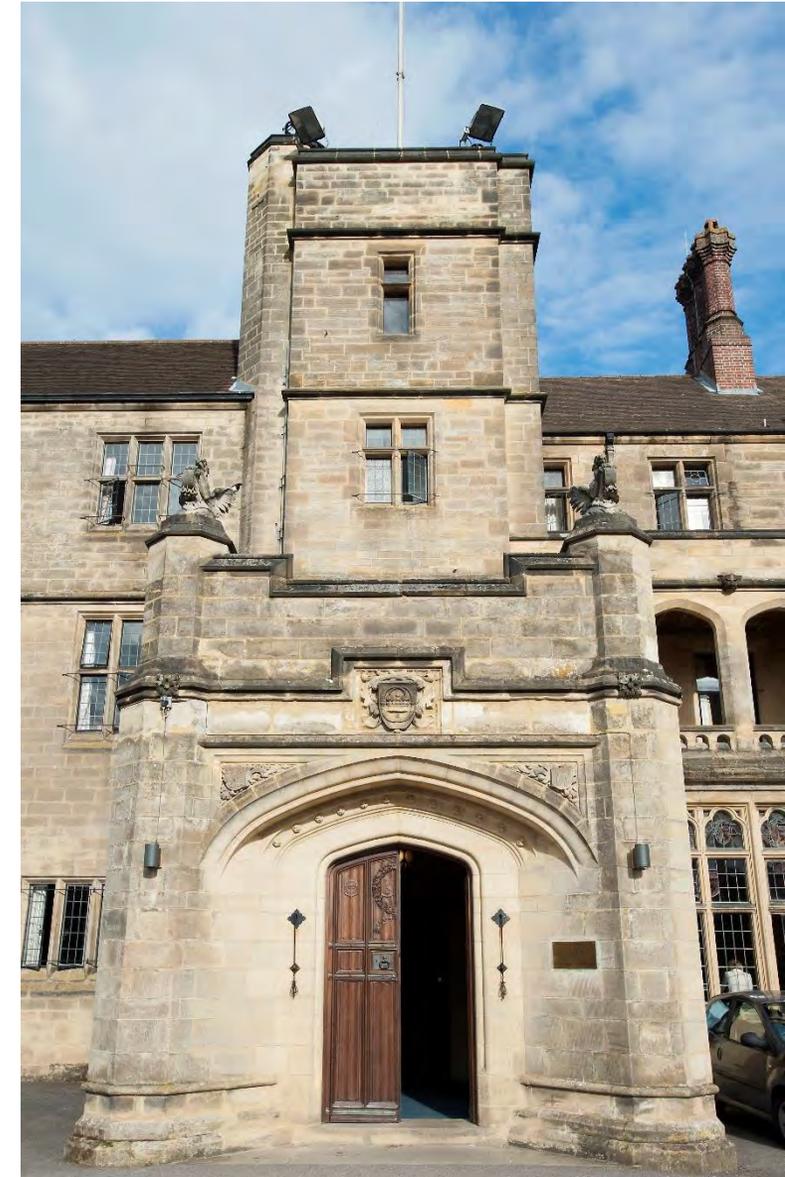
- Check Satchel:One (Show My Homework) and Google Drive every evening to see if your teachers have uploaded lesson materials.
- Have what you might need for the lesson with you e.g. laptop charger, notebook, pen, calculator.
- It is a good idea to set your computer up in a place where adults in your family can see that you are learning but it should also be a place where you can focus on the lesson.
- Go to the toilet and get snacks or drinks between lessons.
- Wear clothes that would be acceptable on the School site during a “home clothes” day.
- Turn off any TV, music and/or other digital devices so that you reduce the distractions around you.

Behave politely to everyone in the learning environment:

- Focus on the learning activities and behave in a way that enables others to stay focused on the learning activities.
- Use polite language to the teacher and to other pupils, whether you are typing or speaking. Please do not type in capital letters, it looks as though you are shouting.
- Keep your microphone switched off unless you are invited to contribute by the teacher.
- Do not leave the learning environment unless there is a good reason and send a message to the teacher asking for permission first.
- Only use the online learning environment for the purpose of attending the lesson. You must not abuse the online learning environment by capturing or amending images or videos.

Report concerns:

- Contact your tutor or HsM if you have concerns about unkind behaviour or possible bullying in the online learning environment.
- Contact Mr Gushurst-Moore or Ms Chamberlain if something in an online lesson makes you feel worried that a pupil or pupils might be at risk of harm or being harmed.



WORSHIP AND FAITH FORMATION

As a Benedictine and Catholic school we can look to the great resources of our tradition to help us in this new lockdown. At Christmas, Christ came to humanity that we might be drawn towards Him, and we know that in the here and now, wherever we are, He is present to us. Our school Worship gives us an opportunity to acknowledge that presence.

Wednesday Worship

We will continue to provide an online worship experience, which will help bring us together wherever we are, and help us to remember what we share as a community. These online experiences will continue to involve guest speakers, prayer and music.

Formation

The Confirmation candidates will continue to receive their weekly formation in preparation for the sacrament. Pupils across year groups will be offered a variety of prayer experiences, including online lectio, participation in the chaplaincy reps team, and Oasis sessions for the younger years.



*Humility is not thinking less of
yourself but thinking of
yourself less*



STUDENT SERVICE: HOW OUR PUPILS RESPONDED IN THE FIRST LOCKDOWN



Year 12 pupil Caspar and a group of friends ran a combined 2,000km for CARE International, an organisation which supplies countries around the world necessities in order to fight the virus such as hand sanitisers, face masks, fresh water, food and medicine.



Year 10 pupil Joseph volunteered to help source and feed homeless people in London while working with the Dusty Yak Foundation. Joseph and his family travelled to London over the Easter weekend with food, clothes and sleeping bags they had collected from local families to help the Foundation, feeding and providing essential needs for about 60 homeless people.



Year 7 pupil Tristan, working for his Scout group, helped a local food bank and hospice during lockdown. He put a canvassing letter through the letterboxes of houses in his area asking for donations of food, then went around collecting the donations which had been left out before delivering them to his Scout hut ready for a local hospice to deliver food parcels to outpatients who were unable to leave their homes.

*When you focus on the
goodness of life, you create
more of it*



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will there be any changes to the timetable?

Yes. As we did in the first period of lockdown, we have changed the timetable to bring all academic lessons into the Monday to Friday timetable. This will give pupils a break from their screens over the weekend. This means that there will be no formal academic lessons on Saturday mornings between now and half term. Saturday mornings will include online academic enrichment opportunities for those who wish to take part, as well as additional opportunities for pupils and parents to make appointments to speak face-to-face via SchoolCloud with tutors, heads of department and Housemasters or mistresses as needed.

Is there anything that parents can do to help make the online provision work for their child?

Yes. Please encourage your child:

- to be out of bed in time to be ready for tutorial and/or lessons each morning.
- to be dressed appropriately for a school day (though uniform is not required).
- to be sitting at a desk/table for each lesson.
- to have mobiles and other devices well out of the way so that they do not invite distraction – ideally these could be given to parents or guardians to look after during the school day.
- to remain online and fully engaged for the duration of each lesson.
- to be ready to have the laptop's camera on, especially for morning tutorial. If they do not wish to be asked to do this, please could they let their tutor know.

Please note that pupils may be encouraged to switch on their camera at any point during a lesson to encourage and measure their engagement.

Who should I contact if I have any concerns about my child's progress or any other matter?

Your child's Housemaster or Housemistress will usually be the best person to contact in the first instance, or you can contact members of the senior leadership team as listed in the letter above. As usual, if you have any safeguarding-related concern about your child, or any other child in the School, please contact Mr Gushurst-Moore or Ms Chamberlain at dsl@worth.org.uk.

What will be happening to GCSE and A Level exams?

The Government has announced that A Level and GCSE examinations will not run next term. It is likely that schools will be required to provide Centre Assessed Grades. Therefore, evidence of GCSE and A Level pupils' best work across all three terms will be of vital importance.

What about IB exams?

At this stage the IB examinations will be going ahead as published. Further details about submitted work will follow from the IB Co-ordinator, Ms Williams.

Will the School be open again after half term?

The Prime Minister has said that this is the Government's ambition, and we are working on this assumption. We will be monitoring the situation closely and keeping parents informed at every stage.





WORTH
SCHOOL