



Newsletter 13 (20/21) | January 2021

Modern English School Cairo



Dear Parents,

In accordance with recent announcements made by the Ministry of Education, we will be reverting to Online Learning for the first half of Term 2.

Please note that in order to give teachers the opportunity to properly prepare for full Online Learning we will host a **Staff Only day on Sunday 10 January 2021 and commence the Online Learning programme from Monday 11 January 2021.**

We have made adjustments to our Online Learning provision for this half term based on our evaluation of previous online efforts. Further advice and guidance will be given via each student's Google Classroom account. An outline of essentials is below:

Primary

EYFS and KS1: Students in FS1, FS2, Y1 and Y2 will log-on to their Google Classroom account with adult supervision each school day, at 8.15am. A 'live' lesson will be broadcast at this time by the class teacher - a recording of the lesson will be loaded on to GC for you to access later, however, completing the lesson via the pre-recording will limit opportunity for your child to interact with their teacher and class members. A schedule of learning topics will be shared for the week by 3.00pm the preceding Thursday. Following the lesson (30-45mins) a series of age-appropriate activities will be posted each day for children to complete. The classroom teacher will be available from Sunday to Thursday for 20 mins between 1.00pm-3.00pm (time to be confirmed) for parents to drop into a group Google Meet and ask any questions about the learning activities. Note: there will be no Group A/Group B distinction - the programme will run for all students in the class.

KS2: Students in Y3, Y4, Y5, and Y6 will log-on to their Google Classroom account independently each day at 8.15am. Children will have a schedule of learning for the day that will include a combination of 'live' lessons taught by their teacher and activities for them to complete and submit. It is expected that students will engage in 'live' lessons at scheduled times between 8.15am - 1.00pm and complete the activities set between 'live' sessions. The classroom teacher will be available from Sunday to Thursday for 20 mins between 1.00pm-3.00pm (time to be confirmed) for students to drop into a group Google Meet and ask any questions about the learning activities. Note: there will be no Group A/Group B distinction - the programme will run for all students in the class.

Secondary

Students in all sections of Secondary will follow their usual timetable (commencing Week B from Monday 11 January 2021). Lessons will take place, as timetabled, following the timings introduced in Sept 2020; students are expected to be engaged in their lessons from 8.00am until 1.00pm. 8.00am will commence with an online HR to share notices, monitor attendance and follow our well-being curriculum. Subject lessons will begin with 'live' content delivered by the teacher and may then incorporate tasks for students to complete independently. Note: there will be no Group A/ Group B distinction - the programme will run for all students in the class.

Students in Y10-12 who had exams that were delayed because of inclement weather last term, or were necessarily absent with approval, will be notified of arrangements. Students in G9-12 with exams scheduled for later in January will be notified of arrangements specific to these important assessments.



General

Attendance to scheduled lessons is compulsory and will be monitored. It is critical for students to engage in Online Learning if they are to have the opportunity to progress in line with expectations. Attendance will be monitored, as will active engagement in learning and completion of work set for assessment purposes.

Students are to participate in live lessons wearing school uniform.

Additional support for students who are struggling with any aspect of their learning can be obtained through our Learning Development Department; please initiate requests through the Assistant Head/Dean of Students who looks after your son/daughter's year/grade group.

Parents are asked to support online learning at home by ensuring a reliable internet connection, access to a suitable device with the specifications to support Google Classroom activity, and a learning environment that is conducive to quiet, focused study. Inevitably, younger children will need more adult support with their learning whilst older children will manage more independently. Our decision to have students dress in uniform is to help them properly prepare for engagement and productive learning - please support us by incorporating this into your morning household routine.

If you have any questions or concerns about online provision, we suggest that you engage positively with online provision for a full week. If your concerns prevail, share these directly with school so that we may address/resolve them. Email mescairo@mescairo.com with a clear summary of the concern in the subject line; ensure clear identification of the child and class you are writing about.

If you have technical difficulties, including issues related to Google access, please email helpdesk@mescairo.com.

None of this is easy, but clearly the health and well-being of our school community is a priority as Egypt (and the rest of the world, it seems) encounters a surge in COVID cases. We have proven our resilience in recent months and will continue to do so; all decisions we make will maintain resolute focus on the needs of our school community as a whole.

United we must stand!...our children deserve nothing less. Together, we can continue to overcome the ongoing challenges we face.