



St. Julie's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mr. T. Alderman

"Serve the good God well with much liberty of spirit"

Thursday 21 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Re: Oak National Academy

I hope you and your family are keeping well in these unusual times.

As part of our continued plans to support remote teaching and learning, I wanted to let you know we'll be complementing our own resources with those from Oak National Academy.

This online classroom has been created by teachers specifically to support pupils' learning at home. Oak is a free website available at www.thenational.academy. It is backed by the Department for Education, and your child's teacher will advise the best way to use the lessons.

You can access Oak's online classroom on any device, you don't need to log in or remember a password. Your child can access lessons across a range of subjects, which provide four to five hours of learning every day.

Each lesson is delivered by a trained teacher, over a pre-recorded video, and it's very clear at the start of each session anything you might need (such as pens, paper etc). The lessons are designed to need minimal supervision.

I've included some frequently asked questions on how to make the most of it. Please do read through and follow your teacher's advice.

As we approach half-term, Oak's website will also launch an online Activity Club with activities to keep children active and engaged and to help families balance your daily routines. Oak Activity Club features cook-a-longs, debating and arts activities.

And finally, in order to support students in Year 10 with the careers advice offering they would normally have access to in school, next month Oak National Academy will be running a careers week with the Careers and Enterprise Company. This will include a variety of activities and lessons with employers across a range of industries. We will provide more information on this over the next few weeks.

Rest assured we will continue to update you as consideration is given to when more pupils might return to school, and to keep providing online learning.

With best wishes,

Mrs K McCourt
Deputy Headteacher

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Secondary parents and pupils

Welcome to Oak National Academy. We hope these questions and answers will help you make the most of Oak's free online classroom.

What is Oak National Academy?

Oak National Academy is an online classroom with free, high-quality video lessons and resources. It's free for you to use and has been created by over 80 teachers, with the backing of the Government. It's designed to help schools, parents and pupils balance learning at home.

Lessons in secondary cover Year 7 to Year 10, with lessons covering a wide range of subjects. Each day there are at least four to five hours of lessons. There is also a specialist curriculum for those pupils with additional needs.

How do I get on to Oak?

You can access Oak at www.thenational.academy. It's easy to get on through a phone, tablet or laptop. You can use Oak on more than one device at the same time, which is great if you have family members learning together.

Do I need a login and password?

You don't need a login or password for Oak. You can simply go to the website and, depending on what your teacher has recommended, start the lessons straight away. The website doesn't collect your personal information, so your data is safe.

Do I need to do the lessons with my child?

Each lesson is a pre-recorded video with a teacher who takes you through each section step-by-step. The level of your supervision has been designed to be minimal. Each lesson can be paused and rewound to help students learn at their own pace.



How are the lessons taught?

Each of Oak's lessons is an hour-long and is delivered over by a video on the website. The lessons include quizzes, worksheets and creative activities. The videos are pre-recorded so there's no other pupils in your session.

Can we get on to the lessons at any time?

As the lessons are pre-recorded, they are available any time, so you can choose when you go online to help you balance your daily routine. Each lesson follows a sequence which builds on previous lessons, but they are also stand alone so you don't need to start from the beginning. Your school will guide you on how to use the lessons.

Will the school tell me which lessons to do?

Your school will advise you on using Oak. You might be asked to follow the 'schedule' in the Oak classroom - this provides a plan of lessons for you to follow each day, across a range of subjects. This is a bit like a daily timetable.

Alternatively you might be asked to complete specific lessons in certain subjects. These are accessed by clicking 'subject' in the Oak classroom.

How do I find a lesson?

Visit www.thenational-academy and then click 'classroom'. You'll then find three options:

- Specialist: to take you to the specialist resources for those with additional needs
- Subject: which first asks your year group, and then offers you lessons just in specific subjects (e.g. if you just wanted to do maths lessons)
- Schedule: which first asks your year group, and then offers a schedule of lessons, giving you a daily timetable across different subjects

What does my child need to take part in the lessons?

Each lesson is very clear about what you need at the start. For most, there's minimal additional material, usually just a pen and some paper.

Do I have to share my child's work with their teacher?

Your teacher will advise whether they wish to see work on Oak, and they will also advise how best to share work safely.

How long will Oak run for?

Oak will provide new lessons and resources each week until schools fully re-open, at the very least.

Will Oak National Academy cover extra-curricular areas?

Oak Activity Club will be available over half term with a range of activities for children and families, including cook-a-longs, debating and arts from some brilliant partner organisations.

Each Thursday at 10am Oak also holds an online assembly. These provide opportunities to hear from some inspirational guest speakers, including the first British astronaut, the cast of the Lion King and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

For more information please visit the Oak National Academy website:

<https://www.thenational.academy/information-for-parents-pupils>