

Learning Support for Students Working From Home

If you have a specific learning difficulty, you already know that extra time in assessments and tests is critical, which is why this is usually a key part of your Individual Education Plan. When working from home and using online learning there will be particular challenges you may face. You may find it is taking you longer to complete your work or feel overwhelmed with the amount of reading and note making.

We hope these tips should help. Remember you can contact Mrs Garnett on a.garnett@lggs.lancs.sch.uk if you need any support with any difficulties you are having with your work.



Make the most of technology



Immersive Reader

Immersive Reader – Using a word document, select View then Immersive Reader. Immersive reader will read aloud words, sentences or whole texts. You can change spacing widths and column widths, change background theme. Select grammar options to highlights nouns, adjectives etc, change line focus and replay as often as needed.

Read out loud to yourself – this is really helpful if you find it hard to process information visually. You can read your text out loud and listen to it yourself. This is an access arrangement that we are able to provide for exams so if it helps you and it becomes your normal way of working you can do this in exams.



Change background colour without using Immersive Reader – some of you use overlays when you are reading, this is not always possible when you are working on a computer although you can put your overlay over the screen if that helps. If not you can change the background colour of the screen by selecting Design and then Page Colour. You can alter the colour so that it is easier to see the words on screen. Not everyone can read black text on a white background and

altering the background colour might help you if you are tired or finding it hard to absorb what the text says. Most people find a pale orange or pink helpful for tired eyes to help them focus.

Create a PowerPoint presentation of the material you need to know for an exam. (Think of it as a high-tech version of flash cards.) You can use immersive reader to read slides back to you if needed.



Plan written work on a computer, which can be more efficient and easier to read than handwriting. Using a computer allows you to focus on the content rather than your handwriting so you can get your thoughts out in the first draft. And when you make edits, you won't need to write the entire essay over again.



Microsoft Word has a dictation element that will enable you to speak into your microphone and then appraise the words once they have been written on word. To select Dictation go to Home – Dictation. You must have a microphone enabled to use this.

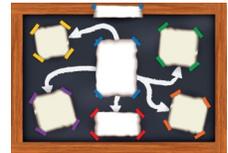
After you complete a writing assignment, whether it's a paragraph or a longer paper, read it aloud and record it on your mobile. (You can also have a member of your family read it to you.) Listening to what you wrote as you read it over several times can help you spot errors and identify changes you'd like to make. Listening as you read your notes also helps you understand and remember what you've learned.



Listen to books in audio form, reading along in the hard copy.

Use time productively

Break up big projects into smaller, less intimidating pieces. If you have a large assignment due set dates for working on little tasks related to the paper, like picking a topic, doing your research and writing a first draft. Don't be afraid to email your teacher or ask someone to assist you write a timeframe that this would work in.



Set yourself time to work slowly and carefully. You don't want to rush or end up missing some of the task.



Prioritise what should be handed in first. If you're faced with a long list of short assignments, it's easy to just grab them all at once and start working in random order. But that's not the most effective approach. Take a minute to prioritise your work according to what's due first and what is likely to take you the most or least time to complete. Study tonight for the French essay due in tomorrow, not the vocabulary test that's coming up next week.

Don't fall into the "no work today" trap. If your calendar is clear, look ahead to see what's coming up. Use this free time to get a head start on the work you need to complete later.

Outline a task before you start. For an essay on plant growth, what materials will you need to gather? How many days will you have to allow for the beans to sprout? How long will it take you to write up your results? Think it through in your head and work out what steps you'll have to take so you know what you'll need — and how much time to allow — to get it done.



Don't do more than you have to. For instance, you don't have to research everything on a topic to write a few lines in answer to a question.

Preview reading to identify words you can't pronounce and use Immersive Reader to support you.

Independent note taking

Cornell Method

When taking notes on a reading assignment or lesson, aim to take down the main points rather than copying everything word for word. If the lesson is being delivered ask any questions you need to or if not make a list of questions to ask your teacher via email. Use diagrams or sketches if it helps you. Finally, write a 3-4 sentence summary.

Divide the page of your notebook into three sections:

Notes (main points)

Cues

Summary



Date:	Topic:
Step 2 Cues – Reduce	Step 1 Notes – Record
When: After activity or discussion	When: During the class or discussion
What: Reduce learning to essential facts	What: Record as many facts and ideas from the lesson as possible
How (Make lists) Facts Key ideas Important words Pivotal phrases Questions	How: Bullets, phrases and pictures Avoid sentences Use abbreviations and symbols Leave space between points to add information later
Why: it is hard to recall everything so you need to filter out the most important ideas and concepts.	Why: You need to record the learning in a method that is meaningful to you before you can process it.
Step 3 Summary – Reflect and Review	
When: At the end of the lesson or as homework	
What: Review and summarise the main ideas from the lesson	
How: Use complete sentences such as: Why is this information important? What conclusions can I make from this information? How can I apply this information?	
Why: Reviewing information after it is learned is one of the best ways to retain any concept or skill	

Embrace Simple Solutions

Break down content into smaller chunks rather than trying to tackle everything on an entire sheet or in a book chapter will make studying far less overwhelming. Use flash cards or post it notes as a portable study guide to keep on hand and quiz yourself whenever you have a few minutes to spare.



Work in a quiet place with few distractions. Ear plugs or noise-cancelling headphones can help to block out noises that distract you.

Give yourself visuals to work from and help strengthen your memory. Examples: Use diagrams for capturing the structure of a story or for remembering historical figures; use highlighters or color-coding to bring out the main ideas in your notes, drafts or worksheets; create symbols, initials or doodles to help you remember concepts.

