

5 January 2021

Dear Parent

Firstly, despite the current national situation may I offer you seasonal greetings!

I'm sure, like me, many of you watched the Prime Minister's Coronavirus briefing last night when he announced a further national lockdown, and regrettably as a result, **school closures from Tuesday 5 January** until further guidance is received from the government. This is with the exception of vulnerable and key workers' children, who will be working under supervision in our IT rooms. Many parents of children within this group have already been in contact, however, if you do fall within this category and do need your young people to take up this provision, please do let us know at reception@queenelizabeths.co.uk. It would be very much appreciated if we had a day or two's notice of your intention, in order that we are in a position to ensure that we have the correct level of staffing to support the students on site. All other pupils will revert to remote learning: pupils should regularly check the Home Learning page of the intranet for details of streamed lessons, Teams assignments, independent learning tasks etc. We aim to deliver an element of the curriculum through streamed lessons in the coming weeks. We will write again in due course to give details of how students and parents can identify, through the home learning platform, when these lessons will take place.

In addition to the distance learning and streamed lessons already offered, just prior to the Christmas break we purchased an online learning package originally intended to be launched this month to all students. Given the current situation, I believe it is sensible to ensure students do have access to this package (even though we may not necessarily make full use of all its features as swiftly as originally envisaged). The package is intended to be supplementary to our delivered curriculum, developing its use further as we become more confident and once students have had the opportunity to get online and start using it. The package is called **SAM learning**. It is an online learning platform with a wide array of self-explanatory learning resources appropriate to all subjects within our curriculum.

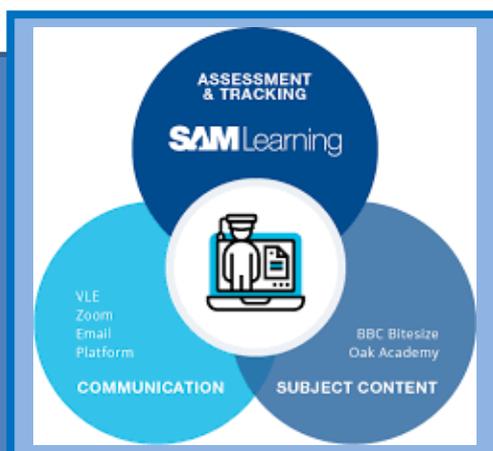
To access simply login to <https://www.samlearning.com/> where you will be asked for:

Centre ID which in our case is: **LN1QE**

Username (students date of birth and their initials): **ddmmyyij**

Password: **Upon first login it will be the same as the student's username.** *I would urge that students change their password to something personal to them for security.*

Should students struggle to log on, they should contact me directly via email and I will endeavour to support them.



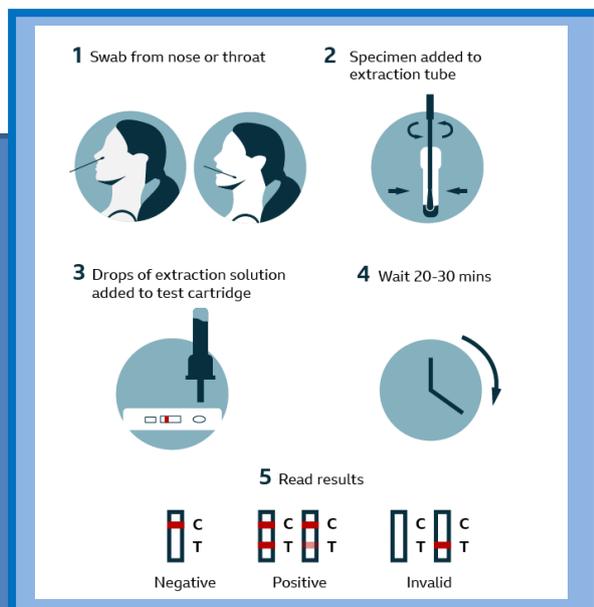
Once logged on, students will have access to 'my set tasks' and all of the resources of the site. There is a significant collection of resources and self-assessment tasks on a wide variety of subjects. This is particularly useful to students as an 'aid' to their revision of subject matter already covered. Once we get going properly, SAM learning work that is set by staff will be flagged on the intranet system in the same way that it will be for any work set on Teams.

Many of your children are in the position where they were planning to sit formal **examinations** this year and in some cases within years 12 and 13 hoping to commence exams next week. We have had confirmation that the external examinations that were planned to go ahead over the coming weeks **will** commence as planned. We will write to year 12 and 13 students directly, in due course, to outline procedures for the examination programme as further details are confirmed. For now, we recommend the students continue to work on their revision packages and gain support from their teachers in the way they did before yesterday's announcement. With respect to year 11 and 13 formal examinations at the end of the year, we are still unclear what the process will be, however it is becoming apparent that what we will experience will be different from what we expected. It is clear to me, from the fact that the year 12 and 13 exams are proceeding next week as planned, that we may well still have some form of external assessment at some point. Therefore for now, regardless of whether we ultimately end up with an element of centre assessed grades, examinations or - in my view the most likely option - an element of both, the onus is on all students to continue to work hard in preparation for whatever the final decision is. As soon as I have further information regarding external examination's, I will of course share this with you.

Regardless of the decision regarding examinations we are going to have to undertake further assessment after this period of enforced closure. It is important for all students, particularly those in examination year groups, to be ready for that once we get to a point of national clarity.

Pupils entitled to **Free School Meals** will receive a weekly payment during this period of lockdown; should your bank details have changed since December, could you please notify us by email with immediate effect.

We are already commencing work in preparation for the re-opening of school when this lockdown is lifted. Part of that work is the finalisation of the **lateral flow testing program** that we have been working towards over the last couple of weeks. To this end could I please request that any permission slips that are still outstanding are returned to school as swiftly as possible in order that when we do get permission to re-open the site we are in the strongest position that we can be to do this quickly and safely. A copy of the original letter with the consent form is attached for your use.



1 Swab from nose or throat

2 Specimen added to extraction tube

3 Drops of extraction solution added to test cartridge

4 Wait 20-30 mins

5 Read results

Negative Positive Invalid

Please remember to return your **Lateral Flow consent form** back to school! Thank you.



Congratulations go to:

- The following Lower School pupils who have achieved their **Bronze Merit Awards**:

Amelie Anderson 7C	Archie Anderson 7C	Poppy Cross 7C	Charlie Crouch 7C
Peshika Gungah 7C	Maisie Gretton 7S	Isabel-Mae Smith 7S	Harlie Howden 7T
Joshua Kingham 7T	Adham Soultan 8T	Erin Thein 8T	Lily Young 8T

- The following Middle and Upper School pupils who have achieved **25 Merits**:

William Laverack 10S	Brodie West 11C	Laila Handley 12C	Matthew Hancock 12S
James Gilliatt 12T			

- The following Lower School pupils who have achieved their **Silver Merit Awards**:

Archie White 7S	Zara Macdonald 7T	Ashley Martini 7T	Liam Saunders 7T
Emily Randell 8S			

- The following Middle School pupils who have achieved **40 Merits**:

Rachael Alan 9C	Thomas Barker 10T	Anthony Webber 10T
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- The following Lower School pupil who has achieved their **Gold Merit Award**:

Cameron Duff 7S

- Kayleigh Alexander (11C) has completed an online National Cyber Security Centre course 'Cyberfirst Defenders' gaining a Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Level 4 as well as completing the following InvestIN courses 'Young Computer Scientist Programme – Cybersecurity & AI 2020' and 'Young Computer Scientist Programme – The Software Engineer 2020'.

Adjustments to the Covid-19 Plan

- *Letters issued 18 and 31 December 2020 detailing staggered Spring Term starts dates in line with government guidance.*
- *5 January 2021 national school closures, with provision in school for vulnerable and key worker students.*

This is not the letter that I envisaged writing this week, for which you have my sincere apologies, however given the national situation it is the one that is regrettably necessary. As ever should there be anything that is concerning families please do get in contact with me over the coming days and weeks.

Cor unum, via una



Mr G Thompson
Headteacher



Well done to our budding young computer scientist,
Kayleigh Alexander (11C), on gaining certificates in Cyber Security!

