



NORTHAMPTON  
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Guided Home Learning Information



# Contents

3-4 Guided Home Learning in Nursery and Junior School

5 Guided Home Learning in Senior School

6 Privacy, Online Safety and Appropriate Use

7 The Platforms used

8 Guided Home Learning Pedagogy

9 2021 Exam Groups

10 Enrichment and Wellbeing

11 Feedback, Key Dates, The Timetable and more

---

# Guided Home Learning in Nursery and Junior School

**Nursery:** Our Nursery remains open as usual for children to attend as normal. Please contact Mrs Bing if you have any questions about sessions available or nursery provision in general.

## Junior School Guided Home Learning (GHL)

### Main Aims During GHL

Our aim is to continue to provide a broad, balanced and rich curriculum to engage, motivate, teach and inspire the pupils. In addition to the core lessons, we continue to offer PE, music and language teaching in as creative a way as possible. Our learning programme continues to be driven by planned, clear learning intentions and staff select the best task or experience to support these.

### The Platforms Used

Junior School teachers will be using Microsoft Teams to introduce their lessons to pupils. All pupils will log into Teams to register at 9am daily. Pupils in Reception to Year 4 will not be expected to remain 'live' on Teams throughout the lesson as this is not effective for their ways of learning, but will be guided by their teacher about how and when to check back in throughout the lesson. However, Years 5 and 6 will mostly remain online for interaction with each other and their teacher.

### Overall Junior School Curriculum Statement GHL Approach

Each class teacher publishes their curriculum summary via Firefly for parents to access. Our approach to GHL is tailored to the age of the pupils. Just as teachers do not spend an entire lesson talking to pupils in school, this is not effective remotely either. Teachers will be available throughout the day, after checking in and registering live with pupils in the morning. The overriding principle is to offer our pupils as close an experience of school as we can in their home learning.

### Teacher Support

Teachers will talk to pupils via Microsoft Teams as appropriate through their lessons to check understanding, answer questions and monitor progress. Where pupils need individual explanations and support, this will be given in the same way. Work set may necessarily be in a slightly different format to in-school lessons, but will ensure progress by covering the same topics and skills development.



---

# Guided Home Learning in Nursery and Junior School

## Expectations

We really want pupils and parents to keep in touch with us so we can be as supportive as possible. If you need to arrange to speak to your daughter's teacher, please contact them via [junioradmin@nhs.gdst.net](mailto:junioradmin@nhs.gdst.net) and they can arrange a call with you. Whilst we know that younger pupils in particular may need support with the technology and accessing work, we politely request that parents do not directly sit in on lessons for the privacy of all concerned.

## Wellbeing

We know that the current situation is difficult for everyone and can cause some worries and anxieties in younger children who may not fully understand the situation. If you have concerns about your daughter's wellbeing and want to discuss it, please get in touch with her class teacher or Mrs Purvey-Tyrer who will be happy to offer advice and support.

## Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Pupils will continue to have weekly PSHEE based on the JIGSAW programme of work. This half term our school theme will be Dreams and Goals. Alongside this, teachers will build in times when they have the opportunity to discuss any matters arising, informally.

## Feedback

The marking and feedback will be done in a variety of ways, dependent on the age of the pupil and the task. Some will be verbal when sharing ideas in Live sessions and others via email or comments in shared documents. Feedback remains an important and integral part of teaching and learning.

## Communication

In the first instance, please contact your daughter's class teacher if you have day to day queries. The simplest way to do this is by email either direct to the teacher or via [junioradmin@nhs.gdst.net](mailto:junioradmin@nhs.gdst.net). For queries about PSHEE and Pastoral or Wellbeing matters, please contact Mrs Purvey-Tyrer: [j.purvey-tyrer@nhs.gdst.net](mailto:j.purvey-tyrer@nhs.gdst.net). Mrs Davis welcomes the opportunity to talk to any parent and is usually available on a Monday and Thursday each week. Please contact Mrs Tracy Furniss on 01604 547882 if you would like to book either a Teams or telephone call with Mrs Davis.



# Privacy, Online Safety and Appropriate Use

It is understood that many pupils will be working in a communal area of their home, but we ask that disruptions are kept to a minimum, for the privacy of staff and other pupils and family members do not join the lesson. If there is background noise in the room, pupils can of course mute their microphones temporarily.

Pupils are not required to wear school uniform, but are asked to ensure they wear comfortable and appropriate clothing. Backgrounds to videos should either be neutral or blurred. For Games and PE lessons, pupils should wear school PE kit or appropriate active clothing and should ensure they have a clear and safe space for the activities involved, free of intrusive furniture and with a non-slip surface.

As pupils' guided use of IT for their work increases, it is ever more important that they consider not only safe use of online platforms but appropriate use too. All pupils agree to our Acceptable Use Policy when they join the school and this applies during GHL too. Specifically we expect students to be engaged during lessons as they would be in their normal classroom and not messaging or browsing the internet. Parental support in monitoring this during GHL is appreciated.

Pupils can report upsetting or inappropriate use of technology by another pupil by using the 'Online Safety Concern' which is found on the Firefly Homepage.

We would like to recommend the following useful websites:

[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org) which gives age-appropriate advice to parents to help keep your child safe online.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> which gives advice and support to children and young adults as well as parents and carers.



# The Platforms used



Google Classroom

**Google Classroom:** This is our main platform for delivering live lessons and tutor periods. Pupils can access Google Classroom from the Firefly homepage. Each Google Classroom has a link at the top to join the group live with sound and video. Work is set by teachers, within the relevant classroom and pupils should submit their work on the classroom too. Feedback and marks will be received back through the classroom - with pupils only able to see their own feedback.



Google Meet

**Microsoft Teams:** Microsoft Teams is a platform similar to Google Classroom, where some live meetings and classes may take place. It is a platform which is very familiar to the pupils.

**Google Meet:** This is part of the Google Suite and links directly to Google Classroom in many cases. It may also be used by teachers for individual meetings which are not part of a lesson or class.



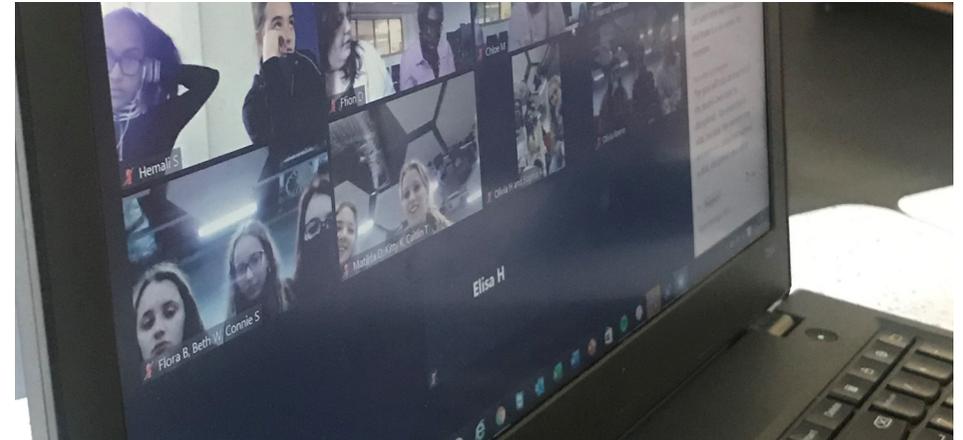
**Firefly:** This is a virtual learning platform that allows students and parents to access a huge range of relevant resources and enrichment activities.

# Guided Home Learning Pedagogy

The principle behind our GHL philosophy is that pupils can access their learning in as close a way as possible to the experience of being in physical lessons. Experience and research evidence is clear that a range of well-managed activities enrich and enhance the learning experience, ultimately leading to deeper learning. Our teachers also strongly encourage a growth mindset, which encourages pupils to try hard and push themselves.

During GHL, as in school, pupils will experience a mixture of the following following in their lessons:

**Teacher-led explanations** - suitable for starting topics and setting up a new lesson but only for relatively short periods of time, particularly for younger students. Any lesson which is completely led by the teacher will not engage pupils for long. Equally a lesson with little teacher talk can lead to pupils getting confused or off-task.



**Class Discussion** - where all pupils are expected to think, contribute and engage in order to explore a topic

**Note Taking** - writing notes in their own words on a topic, perhaps to aid learning a new topic or revise for an assessment.

**Paired or Small Group Work** - working in pairs and small groups can be less daunting and yield greater pupil ideas. It can also be useful for a group topic.

**Research** - usually directed in a very minimal way by the teacher, encouraging pupils to find out information and assimilate it as required  
**Written Work and Tasks** - a very useful way to enable pupils to consolidate their learning and also allows the teacher to give feedback via assessment for learning.

---

# 2021 Exam Year Groups

It has been announced that the exam boards will use Centre Assessed Grades to award GCSE and A Level grades this summer. All teachers will continue to finish their courses with pupils and assessments over the coming term will be part of the range of tools that teachers will use. It is vital that pupils are aware that their results will not hinge on just one assessment point.

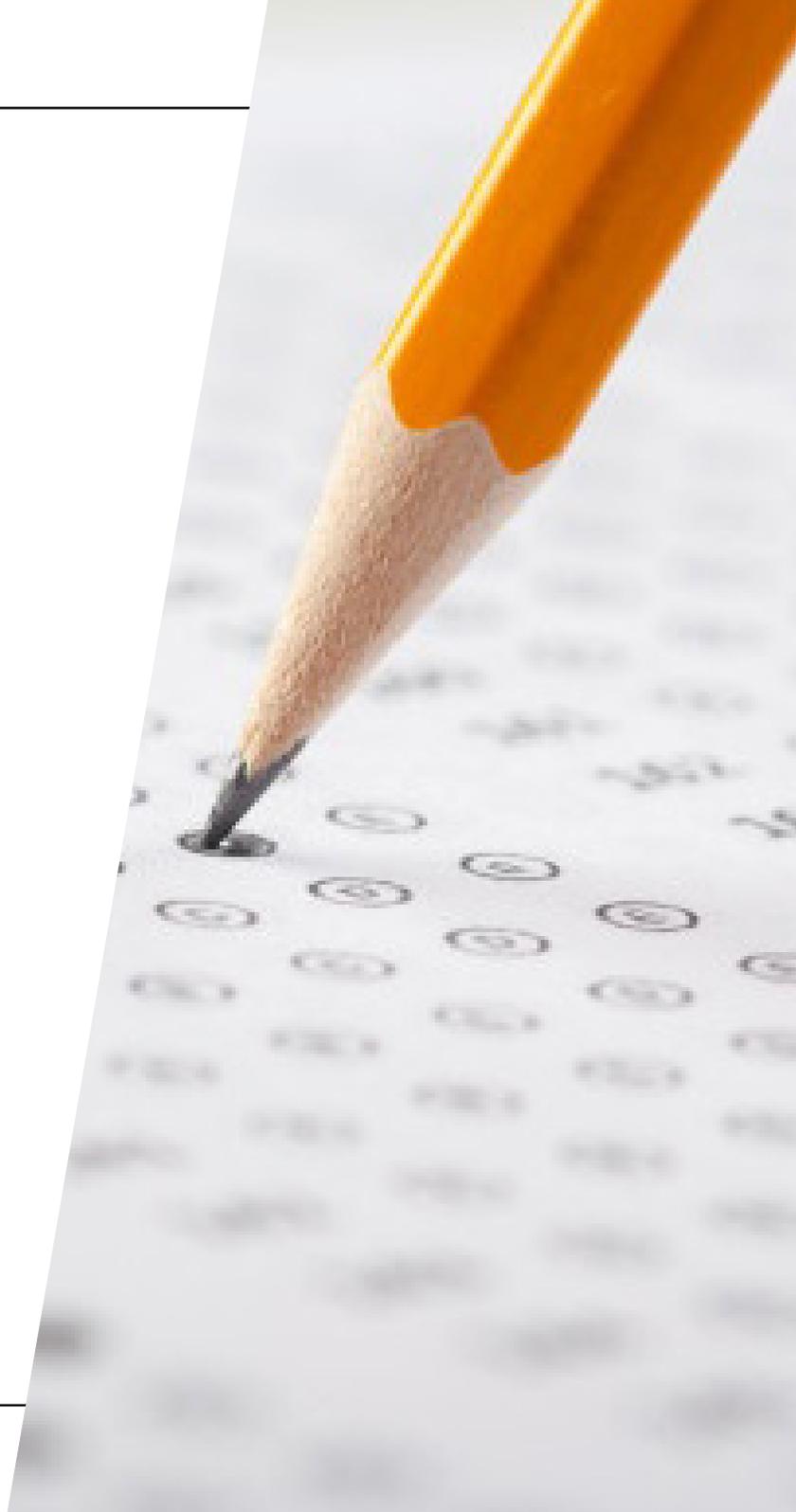
Therefore, it is certainly going to be important for us to continue to gather assessment data as comprehensively as possible. For this reason we intend to run formal spring assessments for Year 11 and 13 students in the weeks originally planned for mock examinations, i.e. w/c 25 January and w/c 22 February respectively.

Individual subject areas will have differing requirements and preferred methodologies for running these assessments remotely. Students will be informed in good time of how to prepare for the activities involved and some will require them to work to timed conditions and to submit work immediately after the assessment. For now, students should continue to revise and

prepare for the assessments as originally planned and teachers will be on hand to support and guide them as needed.

As soon as we are able to make a physical return to school, we will arrange opportunities for more formal exam-style assessments to take place. These will then be joined with information from tests and assignments taken throughout the course to provide a comprehensive basket of assessment data that we can use to inform any judgements about attainment. We do not expect this process to be completed until well into the summer term and students will need to remain focused on the learning and review processes as guided by their teachers throughout the rest of the academic year.

Following the end of GCSE and A Level courses, at a date to be confirmed in due course, there will still be a range of courses and enrichment opportunities available to pupils in Year 11 and 13. This includes the fantastic range of Limitless Learning offers from GDST.



# Enrichment and Wellbeing

## Academic Enrichment

For all students, our comprehensive enrichment and enhancement programme is available on the page of our school Firefly site across the academic and sporting areas. Teachers will point students towards relevant resources as part of their learning, or to enable those who are keen to widen their experiences to access a menu of suitable opportunities.

## The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Pupils in Year 11 may wish to consider undertaking an EPQ when their GCSE courses are finished, or alongside them if they feel they have capacity. EPQ is normally undertaken in 6.1 but this situation provides a super opportunity for them to get ahead. Pupils or parents can contact Mrs O'Doherty ([a.odoherty@nhs.gdst.net](mailto:a.odoherty@nhs.gdst.net)) who coordinates and manages the EPQ if they would like to discuss the possibility.

## Music, Play and Enrichment Time

We all know that exercise and taking part in fun activities is vital for good mental health and development. We strongly encourage all pupils to continue with activities they enjoy

over the coming weeks. In due course, a list of virtual clubs and activities available to students will be circulated so that pupils can join in with any they wish.

## Wellbeing and Support

School staff really understand the worries that the current situation is causing for both pupils and their parents. We know it can be isolating for some pupils and demotivating for others to work from home rather than in the vibrant classroom environment. Equally we do not underestimate the value of the social contact gained through being in school. Tutors and Heads of Year will have a range of activities for daily form time in order to bring their form group together informally.

We also urge all pupils to make the most of the lesson time and ensure they engage fully with their peers and teachers, which will help them feel more involved and less isolated. If pupils are not present for any form time or any lessons, without reason, Mrs Nash will contact home to check that everything is OK. Please be assured this is a welfare check and to ensure we put help in place if needed, rather than 'checking up'.

Tutors will all arrange an individual tutorial over the coming weeks to find out how their tutees are getting on and if they need more help or support.

However, we cannot emphasise enough that pupils (or parents) can get in touch with any teacher, tutor, or member of the pastoral team at any time if they are worried, struggling with work, accessing systems or having a difficult time emotionally. We are here for you and want to help. Please see the Communication section for key contact details.

## PSHEE

We will continue to teach PSHEE lessons to all pupils from Years 7- 11. PSHEE covers a huge range of topics which form a toolkit of coping skills and life skills for our pupils. Many PSHEE lessons are very discussion-based and pupils are asked to reflect at the end. As you may imagine, some of the topics are personal in nature and it is always our expectation in PSHEE lessons that pupils will share only as much as they are comfortable with and be respectful of others at all times.

---

# Feedback, Key Dates, The Timetable and more

Pupils will receive feedback for work submitted and this will vary depending on the type and level of work. Our Feedback Policy ensures that teachers use a range of feedback methods for work, including verbal comment and discussion as well as written feedback and pupil reflection. As you will be aware, we have a policy of learning without limits, which relies on assessments that avoid levels and grading as far as possible. Research shows that outcomes can be most improved by the quality of feedback to students, so we generally avoid a narrow focus on grades in favour of dialogue with students, as this helps to develop skills for learning and to create a climate of continuous improvement. Using technology to accommodate this dialogue has been a key aim in recent months. Our use of Google Classroom and a range of linked software, means that the individual learning relationships between teachers and students can continue to flourish under GHL.

Where Parent Information Events and Parents' Evenings are due to take place over the coming months, these will continue to take place using the School Cloud platform as used last term or Zoom.

## Key Dates

U4 Options Evening - Tuesday 12 January  
6.2 Parents' Evening - Thursday 14 January  
U4 Parents' Evenings - Wed 20 & Mon 25 January  
U5 Parents' Evening - Monday 1 March  
L4 Parents' Evenings - Wed 10 & Mon 15 March

## Communication

For day to day communications and questions, please contact your daughter's tutor in the normal way; **admin@nhs.gdst.net** or directly if you have their email address. Do remember that as usual they will be teaching for much of the day so their reply will not be instant, but it will be as quickly as they can.

If you have any questions about the curriculum please contact Mr Rickman, Deputy Head Academic **h.rickman@nhs.gdst.net**

If you have any safeguarding, online safety or pastoral and wellbeing concerns or questions, please contact Mrs O'Doherty **a.odoherty@nhs.gdst.net**

If you need to contact Mrs Petryszak, please do so via Natalie Bodily, her Executive Assistant, **n.bodily@nhs.gdst.net**

If we have important or general messages for parents, we will use Schoolcomms as usual and will email or telephone you with any individual matters. Please note that as staff will generally be working from home, they may withhold their personal phone number if they call you.

## The Timetable

In Key Stages 4 and 5, lessons will remain as double periods and teachers will continue to set work to be completed beyond the taught lessons to ensure that course content is completed as required. Students will not be expected to work for longer than usual after core school hours, however. In Key Stage 3, all lessons will be the equivalent of double periods, lasting one hour, which may mean that single periods are amalgamated. Prep will not be set as a formal requirement, however, time will be allocated for private study during the week and this will allow for pupils to catch up and review work, without the need to go beyond the normal working day if they choose not to.



# NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

---

**GDST**  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

[northamptonhigh.co.uk](http://northamptonhigh.co.uk) | 01604 765765

January 2021