Parmiter's School
Home Teaching & Learning Newsletter

Welcome to the 4th edition of the Home Teaching and Learning newsletter for 2020/21. These newsletters will continue to offer ideas to support the development of teaching and learning at home in supplement to the work we do in school. Mr Baker - Assistant Headteacher (Teaching and Learning.)

New for 2020: Attitude to Learning (AtL) grades!

2020 marks the replacement of separate class work and homework effort grades at Parmiter's with one **NEW** overall Attitude to Learning (AtL) grade for each subject. Ms Absalom, Assistant Headteacher, tells us more about these changes.

What is an 'attitude to learning' and why is it important?

In the most simple sense, an attitude is a state of mind about an object, fact or situation. Since attitudes are revealed through our behaviour, the way we behave lets others know our state of mind about something. Psychologists say that we tend to do what we tell ourselves to do. Therefore, if we have negative attitudes, these negative attitudes affect what we expect of ourselves which in turn, affects our actions. For example, those with the negative attitude that they "can't do Maths", are almost assured of trouble when attempting maths! A negative attitude limits performance, saps motivation and inhibits learning. However, attitudes are not fixed. Once acquired, we are not stuck with them forever!

There is no guarantee that anyone will instantly be able to understand, for example 'Macbeth', through eliminating a negative attitude about it. A less inhibiting attitude such as, "In the past I may have not done well in English, but I can still learn about Shakespeare and achieve better grades in the future," removes self-imposed limits. This more positive attitude creates the opportunity for learning and motivation that leads to success, regardless of past performance. By changing this negative attitude into a positive one, the door is opened to the possibility of not only learning about 'Macbeth' but becoming really engaged with the act of learning itself!

We believe all students have the capacity to grow as learners, regardless of academic ability. Our new grading system reflects the level of engagement with their own learning, including learning that takes place outside of lessons, that students demonstrate to their teachers. It is our hope that students

Google Apps for Education

reflect on their own attitude to learning and look to improve it, therefore improving their own academic outcomes. For more details on AfL, please see this link.
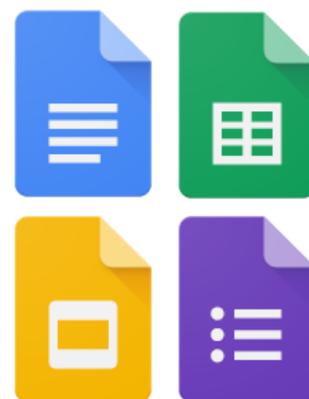
Since 2018, Parmiter's have been using Google Apps for Education and we are now a Google School. Being a Google School means we use a range of applications from Google Docs to *Google Classroom*. In the absence of the possibility to offer a parent information evening on Google, we felt it wise to go over some features that your child might be using and demystify some of the terminology behind Google Apps for Education. Below are a number of links that you might find helpful in understanding how we use Google Apps for Education in school.

Google Glossary: We use a variety of educational technology in the classroom and at school. Here's a glossary of the tools we are using, including explanations as to how your child might be using them, a few video tutorials and some additional resources linked at the end: Link

Google FAQ: As digital technologies continue to serve an important role in your child's education, Google have compiled the most frequently asked questions about tech in the classroom below. It includes quick tips, guides and resources to help answer your tech questions: Link

Support your child and getting organise and help videos: Year 7 had an intensive support programme introducing them to Google Apps for Education in their Great Big Read lessons at the beginning of the academic year. The rest of the school have had a number of reminders and support given to them during form time. Links to the videos we shared with the students are available on our website. Please feel free to watch these videos as they might help you support your child when they are using Google Apps for Education at home. The videos and support can be found via our school website under **"Year 7 Tutorial Videos"**. This link also includes a helpful video on how to get organised using the **"to do"** list in Google Classrooms.

COVID 19: As a school, we use Google for setting work for students that are self isolating. Teachers are made aware of students that are self isolating and will ensure to follow the school policies on setting work, which can be found here. For more information on how we set work for absent students, please see the following link.

Coming soon... In our next newsletter, we will talk about a new feature for Parmiter's parents/carers. In January 2021, you will receive guardian email summaries of work set on Google Classrooms. This is a way of improving transparency of teaching and learning from school to home, and aid in our transition from Show My Homework to Google Classroom next term.

E-Safety

Please don't forget to see this and every term's Online Safety News from Herts for Learning, which is also available on our school website. The information in this newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online. You can find further support for e-safety on our school website via the following link.

Online Safety News

Autumn 2020 | PARENT | CARER