

Thomas Gainsborough School: Remote Learning Support for PARENTS

Establish routines and expectations

It is important to develop good habits from the start. Create a routine and talk about how it is working over time. Students at TGS will be following their timetable as if they were in school, so lessons will appear on Google Classroom in good time for each lesson on each given day. Help students get up, get sorted and ready to learn at a reasonable time. Try as much as possible to keep normal bedtime routines, including normal rules for digital devices. Adjust schedules to meet everyone's needs but don't default to staying up late and sleeping in!

Choose a suitable space in which to learn

Your family's regular learning space for occasional homework might not work for extended periods. Set up a physical location that's dedicated to school-focused activities. Make sure it is quiet, free from distractions and has a good internet connection. Make sure an adult monitors online learning. Keep doors open, and practice good digital safety. Our teachers will be doing the same.

Stay in touch

Teachers will mainly be communicating regularly through Google Classroom and via email. Make sure everyone knows how to find the help they need to be successful. Stay in contact with your child's teachers and school leaders, and normal channels of communication will continue to take place.

Help students 'own' their learning

No one expects parents to be full-time teachers or to be educational and content matter experts. Provide support and encouragement, and expect your children to do their part. Struggling is allowed and encouraged! Don't help too much. Becoming independent takes lots of practice. At TGS, your child usually engages with other students and any number of adults hundreds of times each day. Many of these social interactions will continue from a distance, but they will be different. You cannot replace them all, and that's OK.

Begin and end the day by checking-in by asking the following questions:

- **What lessons do you have today?**
- **Do you have any assessments?**
- **Do you have any tasks due in?**
- **Do you have all the resources you need?**

These brief grounding conversations matter. Checking in with your children helps them to process instructions they receive from their teachers, and it helps them organise themselves and set priorities. Not all students thrive in remote learning; some struggle with too much independence or a lack of structure. These check-in routines can help avoid later challenges and disappointments. They help students develop self-management and executive functioning that are essential skills for life.