A Parents' Guide to RCCS Home Learning Support

At RCCS we use a range of platforms to support our pupils' learning at home, this takes place throughout the year across most subjects and is being updated to reflect the current situation with Covid-19.

Most pupils will already use Google Classroom in some lessons and have virtual learning environments (classrooms) that they access in lessons and for home learning. Some classes also make use of the Hwb platform and all parents also have access to ClassCharts which allows the posting of announcements and homework information. This document will outline these three areas which are already a substantial part of our teaching and which are further utilised if closure takes place.

These are available on tablets, laptops, and desktops, and the majority are also available as apps.

1. G-Suite for Education

Google is our main school platform (www.google.co.uk) and as such all pupils have some experience of using it. Many use it regularly in school already as a virtual learning environment for staff to share resources with them. Pupils log into Google through a browser (such as Google Chrome or Safari, or through the Hwb portal) and then access Google Classroom via the "waffle" which is a 9 dot square in the top right corner. Pupils can see all their classes here, and any new classes can be joined via a class code shared by teachers.

Once in Classroom, they can see the stream, a list of activities provided by the class teacher.

Pupils can also use the "waffle" to access other software such as docs, slides or sheets which can then be used to complete any work as required by teachers.

When work has been set as an assignment, pupils need to submit by attaching it and pressing the HAND IN / TURN IN button on screen.

An additional feature on G-Suite is Meet, which allows video conferencing with groups of students and some teachers may offer this in the event of closure.

2. <u>ClassCharts</u>

Accessed via www.classcharts.com all parents have been provided with a parent code which they can use to access their own child's information. This includes keeping track of your child's behaviour, viewing attendance records, accessing their weekly timetable, viewing assigned homework tasks, tracking scheduled detentions and viewing announcements. If you have more than one child, you can access ClassCharts information about your children from a single, centralised parent account. ClassCharts for parents can be accessed via our website, or through iOS and Android apps.

Announcements may be used by staff during any period of closure to send parents information about work that is being set on our other platforms, or by the school to share other information and appropriate links.

3. <u>Hwb</u>

This is a national platform across Wales accessed via www.hwb.gov.wales and all pupils have access to it. It provides a free, cloud based version of the Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc) and a range of other resources. It also allows pupils to download up to 5 free copies of Office 365 onto personal devices. All pupils have a log in for this and can use any of the tools to support their learning.

Some subjects are using Microsoft Teams and OneNote as digital books this year.

<u>Contacting Teachers</u>

Pupils and parents can contact teachers using the class stream on Google. Alternatively you can email them directly, using the email addresses found on the school webpage.

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