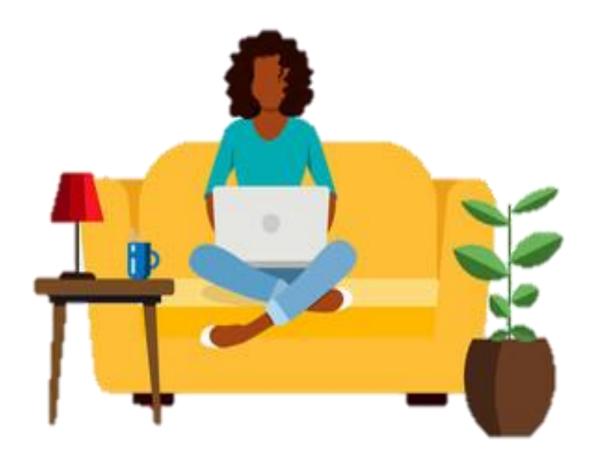


A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

The Year 9 Curriculum and how to support learning at home.



"The effect of parental engagement over a student's school career is the equivalent of adding two to three years to their education."

Professor John Hattie, 2008

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Dear Parent or Carer,

Welcome to the Year 9 Guide to the Curriculum and Home Learning. We hope that you find this a useful resource in the year ahead.

The partnership between school and home is a vital one and by working together we can ensure your child continues to build on the progress they made last year.

An exciting key feature of Year 9 is the Key Stage 4 Pathways Process where your child will receive guidance and make decisions about the subjects they will study in Years 10 & 11. Subject areas will provide specific information to students in lessons about the GCSE and Technical Award courses on offer. Students will have a KS4 Pathways interview to discuss their choices and ask questions. Parents and Carers will receive further detailed information and invitations to events which will help to support the KS4 Pathways process.

The purpose of this guide is to share the overview of the Year 9 curriculum with you and provide information about how you can support your child's learning at home. The school's curriculum policy and curriculum guides will all be posted on the **'Curriculum'** page of the Saddleworth School website.

If you have any questions about a particular subject, please do not hesitate to contact your child's subject teacher or the Curriculum Leader for that subject. If your questions are about a range of subjects, your child's form tutor or Home School Leader will be well placed to help.



"Parents have the greatest influence on the achievement of young people through supporting their learning in the home rather than supporting activities in the school. It is their support of learning within the home environment that makes the maximum difference to achievement."

Sui-Chu and Willms, (1996)

YEAR 9 KEY DATES 2023-24

19th October 2023 School closes at 3pm for October half term today.
20th October 2023 INSET – Staff training day.

w.b. 13th November 2023 Y9 Reports go home this week
21st December 2023 School closes at 1:20pm today for the holidays
INSET – Staff training day.

Tuesday 9th January 2024 School opens to students
10th January 2024 KS4 Pathways Assembly for Y9 students
w.b. 29th January 2024 Y9 Reports go home this week
5th Feb- 4th March 2024 Y9 students have KS4 Pathway interviews with SLT

13th February 2024 Y9 Parents' Consultation and KS4 Pathways Evening
 16th February 2024 School closes at 3pm for holidays and opens on 26th Feb.

4th March 2024 Deadline to hand in KS4 Pathways Form

28th March 2024 School closes today for holidays and opens on 14th April.

3rd and 7th May 2024 Provisional dates for Maths & English assessments in halls

6th May 2024 Bank Holiday Monday

23rd May 2024 School closes today at 3pm for Y7-10 students only. 24th May 2024 School is open to Y11 students for exams (Whit Friday)

w.b.17th June 2024 Y9 Reports go home this week.

13th September 2023 Y9 Parents' Information Evening

1st-5th July 2024 Arts Festival Week

12th July 2024 Y7-9 Health & Wellbeing event w.b. 15th July 2024 Year 9 Celebration Assembly

23rd July 2024 School ends at 1:20pm today for the Summer.



KEY CONTACTS



School Reception: 01457 872072

Your child's Form Tutor:	Email:
9N – Mrs J Healey	j.healey@saddleworthschool.org
9A – Mr D Ratajczyk	d.ratajczyk@saddleworthschool.org
9V – Mr N Jackson	n.jackson@saddleworthschool.org
9Y – Miss N Cotton	n.cotton@saddleworthschool.org
9E – Mr R Sandhu	r.sandhu@saddleworthschool.org
9T – Mr P Kelly	<pre>p.kelly@saddleworthschool.org</pre>
9G – Mr J McMahon	j.mcmahon@saddleworthschool.org
90 – Mr J Ashton	j.ashton@saddleworthschool.org
9L – Miss S Poppleton	s.poppleton@saddleworthschool.org
9D – M C Taylor	c.taylor@addleworthschool.org
Year 9 Pastoral Support Assistant:	Mrs R Smith <u>r.smith@saddleworthschool.org</u>
Year 9 Home School Leader:	Mr J Horn j.horn@saddleworthschool.org
Assistant Headteacher: KS3	Mr M Carey m.carey@saddleworthschool.org
Attendance Team:	Mrs D Dorobat and Mrs L Brindle
	d.dorobat@saddleworthschool.org
	<u>l.brindle@saddleworthschool.org</u>

ATTENDANCE

We understand that there are times when a student has to miss school due to illness. Please keep these occasions as brief and as infrequent as possible. In these circumstances we request that parents select the absence tab on your Classcharts app. This will display a list of absences that you have reported for your child. To report a new absence, please click on the report new absence button. Please do this by 8.30am on each day of absence. If no contact has been made to confirm absence, then the school will follow the 'Unexplained / Unexpected Absences' procedures that are highlighted within the School's Attendance policy.

Please see the school website for support on using Classcharts.

	Ready t AIM I	o Learn HIGH	
E	G	l	S
Excellent	Good	Inconsistent	Serious Concern
100%	97-99%	94-96%	Below 94%
Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance
O Late Marks to School. No appointments or holidays during school time.	0-3 Late Marks to School. No appointments or holidays during school time.	0-6 Late Marks to School. Some appointments during school time.	T6+ Late Marks to School. Appointments or holidays during school time.

PUNCTUALITY

Students who are habitually late to school or to lessons will, over time, miss a significant amount of learning as the table below shows. Please help your child to recognise the importance of being on time for school, lessons and outside of school as well as the consequences of being late for appointments and for the work place.

Minutes Late	Days of Learning Lost
5 Minutes	3.4 Days - (98.4% Attendance)
10 Minutes	6.9 Days - (97.6% Attendance)
15 Minutes	10.3 Days / 2 Weeks - (94.7% Attendance)
20 Minutes	13.8 Days - (92.9% Attendance)
30 Minutes	20.7 Days / 4 weeks -(89.2% Attendance)

WAYS IN WHICH PARENTS & CARERS CAN HELP

- Is your child getting their 5 Ways to Wellbeing each day?
- How is your child coping? Communication is key
- Is there a quiet place to study at home without distractions?
- How do you make sure mobile technology doesn't distract your child from revision and home learning? Agree some ground rules!
- Is your child getting quality sleep? 8-10 hours per night?
- Does your child read regularly?
- Does your child have all the equipment they need (see below) and a desk/table to work at?
- Is your child meeting deadlines for homework tasks?

Water Bottle: Filled with water.

- What is your child finding difficult? Can they tell you specific areas in certain subjects that they find tricky?
- Does your child quiz themselves using their knowledge organisers? Do they make their revision active by writing and talking aloud? Ask them to show you.
- Can your child structure and plan time? Help them to make a list and organise their time.
- Talk with your child about their learning using the prompts on page 17.





encil sharp

eraser and

in Y10/11 who study Art, Graphics, Design or Media.



'ALL STARS' – RECOGNITION

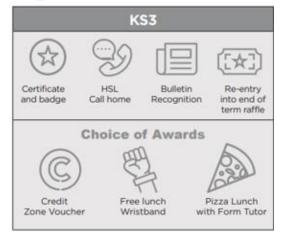
In order to recognise students' efforts and attitudes to learning, we have the 'All Stars' recognition package at Saddleworth School.

Students' credits accumulate and at certain credit amounts they are awarded a Bronze/Silver/Gold Diamond or Platinum Award.

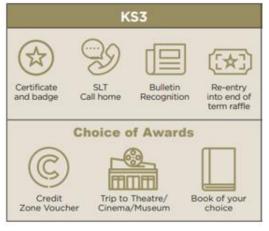












Diamond Award



Platinum Award



YOUR CHILD'S CURRICULUM ENTITLEMENT

Subject	Number of lessons per fortnight	Subject	No.	Subject	No.	Subject	No.
Maths	8	SPACE	1	Music	2	History	3
English	8	PE	3	Art	2	Geography	3
Science	7	MFL(French/German)	4	Drama	2	RE	2
	•			Design	3	Computing	2
				Technology			

The Year 9 curriculum entitles students to:

- Access a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Develop their literacy skills supported by the whole school focus on 'language for learning'.
- Develop their numeracy skills and economic awareness.
- Learn a Modern Foreign Language.
- Participate in at least 3 hours of physical education each fortnight.
- Experience the arts as discrete subjects (Music, Art and Drama) and access the extra-curricular opportunities they provide.
- Study a range of subjects within Design Technology, including food and nutrition.
- Explore and develop their sense of self: their values, feelings and understanding of their place in the world as a respectful, responsible, global citizen. Strengthening their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- See the importance of and connections between leading a healthy, active life with managing one's own mental health and wellbeing.
- Receive careers education, information advice and guidance (CEIAG) through specific sessions, and the 'Start Profile' online platform.
- Develop the appropriate IT and employability skills.
- Develop their attitudes to learning and leadership skills in a range of contexts including lessons, form time, extra-curricular participation, homework and the PETALS programme.
- Represent their school in cultural and sporting events and/ or be a volunteer ambassador at whole school and community events.

'The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you.'

B.B. King

THE POWER OF PARENT AND CARER CONVERSATIONS.

Why is it important to help support your child's home learning?

We know that learning at home can be really challenging. Parents and Carers are not expected to be experts, but they play an incredibly important role in showing children how to organise themselves, manage their time and to keep trying when things get tricky.





Why are conversations about learning at home so important?

Research shows that the more we all talk about learning the more we think deeply about it and want to find out more - this gives learning a greater chance of sticking in our long-term memory. Before COVID-19, we were working with parents and carers to find more ways of helping you to have conversations about learning at home. It's so important that we continue to work together to nurture your child's learning.

- Just a five-minute conversation with a child can help them to remember and better understand what they've learnt.
- Support your child by checking their confidence in an area of learning. You do not need to be an expert in a subject to ask questions about it.
- The best way to learn something is to teach it to someone else can they teach you?
- Help your child to identify what knowledge and skills they are less sure or confident about. Knowing which topics need more work or revision is crucial. Many young people feel happier spending time on what they already feel confident with but that is not where their improvement and future progress lies – they need to persevere with the topics they find challenging.
- Encourage and motivate your child; recognise their successes and achievements, however small.

What kind of questions could I ask?

Here are some questions teaching staff may want students to be able to answer with their parents and carers as part of a home learning activity. Try using the cards on page 17.



- "Which was your favourite lesson today? Sum up your lesson in 3 words. Why did you pick those words?"
- "Did you do something new today that you've never done before? Can you explain it to me?"
- "What have you been learning about today? What can you teach me?"
- "What does mean?"
- "Why do you think this might be important to know or learn? What's your opinion on this topic?"
- "What are you less sure about or find difficult to understand? What do you need to do/ask?"
- "Which part are you less confident with? How can we find out more?"
- "Which is your best piece of work so far? Why do you think this is?"
- "Show me how you are organising your work so that it is kept in the correct sequence or order."
- "Show me how you take PRIDE in your work."
- "Show me your work from today or this week in [name of subject]. What might your teacher say is a strength with this work? What might they say is an area to improve?"
- Have you proof read your work and thought about how to improve it? Have a go at doing this and show me your improvements later."



YEAR 9 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW 2023-24

CIBIECT	A.I.t.		Caring	Caring	Cummor	Cummor
	Half Term 1	HTZ	HT1	HT2	HT1	HT2
MATHS	Number Skills	Algebraic Expressions 1	Fractions	Sequences	Percentages and	Perimeter/Area
Foundation	Types of Number	2D Shapes and Angles	Solving Linear	Percentages and	Decimals	Probability 1
			Equations	Decimals	Ratio & Proportion	Problem Solving
			Analysing & Displaying			
	Calculations & Types of	Algebraic Evarescions	Solving Linear	C+a+ic+ical	lingar Granbs and	Surds
MAIHS	Calculations & Types of	Algebiaic Explessions	Solvillig Lilledi	Statistical	Coordinate	Sulus Statistical Diagrams
Higher	Number	Angle Facts Fractions	Equations and	Darcentages	Coordinate Geometry Segmences	Statistical Diagrams
	Algebraic Expressions	Solving Linear Equations	Averages	Linear Graphs and	Standard Form	Z Ratio and Simple
		and Formulae	Statistical Diagrams	Coordinate		Proportion
				Geometry		
ENGLISH	Short Stories	Julius Caesar	Equality matters –	A Taste of Honey	Masters of English	Power and conflict
		(Extract based)	non-fiction texts paper		(Creative writing	poetry cluster x4
			2 work		looking at writing in	
					style)	
SCIENCE	9B: How do plants	9E: How are materials	9A: How is DNA	Skills and GCSE	SB1 Key Concepts in Biology	ology
	makes everything they	made, what are their	inherited and how	Ready lessons	SC1 States of Matter	
	need just	properties & how	does it affect survival?		סכד סומוכס מן ואומוופן	
	from photosynthesis?	does this affect their use?	9F: What happens		SC2 Separating Substances	ıces
	8H: How do rocks	9I: How do we represent	when metals of		CD2 Consonvation of Energy	78.0
	transform from one type to	speed? How do simple	different reactivity		Cr 3 Collise Vacioni oi En	19.89
	another?	machines work?	react?			
	9I: How do we represent		9J: What are magnetic			
	speed? How do simple		and electric fields and			
	machines work?		how are they used?			
Modern						Live, Breathe,
Foreign	Daily Routine	New -	School	Jobs & Career	ï	Speak German
Languages		l echnology/ Media		Ambitions	rree IIMe	(Getting GCSE
(MFL)						reauy)
RE	Was Jesus the Messiah?	e Messiah?	Is religion a cause for conflict or peace?	onflict or peace?	What is the Philosophy of Religion?	ophy of Religion?
)

	COI	ContinuedYEAR 9 CUI	CURRICULUM OVERVIEW 2023-24	VIEW 2023-24		
SUBJECT	Autumn Half Term 1	Autumn HT2	Spring HT1	Spring HT2	Summer HT1	Summer HT2
HISTORY	How did Hitler go from let- down to leader?	Did the Nazi regime make life better for everyone?	Who was responsible for the Holocaust?	What were the important events of WWII?	Why were the police unable to catch Jack the Ripper?	nable to catch Jack
GEOGRAPHY	Global Atmospheric Circulation.	Rapid urbanisation in LIDCs.	Conflicts	Rivers	Coasts	Coral reefs.
COMPUTING	Organisation & Internet Safety - Social Media	Algorithms/Programming	Ethical environmental & legal issues including cyber security	al & legal issues r security	Spreadsheets IDEAS Award	Project Digital Graphics
PE	Football	ball	Badminton / table tennis	ible tennis	Fitness	SSS
	Netball/ nandball Rugby/ tag rugby	nandball ag rugby	Basketball, Dance Outdoor & adventurous activities/	Dance rous activities/	носкеу Cricket/ Rounders/ softball	(ey ders/ softball
	Gymnastics/ trampolining	rampolining	cross country	intry	Athletics	tics
	Within each sport specific:	ort specific: -	Within each sport specific: -	rt specific: -	Within each sport specific: -	ort specific: -
	Motor competences	mpetences	Motor c	Motor competence	Motor	Motor competence
	 Rules, strategies & tactics 	gies & tactics	 Rules, strate 	Rules, strategies and tactics	Rules, stra	Rules, strategies and tactics
	 Healthy participation & Leadership 	tion & Leadership	 Healthy particip 	Healthy participation & Leadership	 Healthy partic 	Healthy participation & Leadership
DESIGN	Product Design – Solar Light	n – Solar Light	Graphics – Rebranding	branding	Food and Nutrition	Vutrition
TECHNOLOGY	Sustainable Energy	Programming	CAD/CAM	Technical Drawing	Carbohydrates, function	Protein, function and
	Workshop Health and Safety	Flowcharts	Graphics	Colour theory	and sources	sources
	Basic Electronic Components Control Systems	Soldering Wood Joints	Presentation skills Model making	Production methods Enhancement	Benefits of Iow sugar diet Gelatinisation	Vegetarian/Vegan diet Micronutrients
			Branding/Corporate	techniques	Health and safety	Food labelling
			identity		Fats, function and sources	Food waste Food intolerances
MUSIC	EDM	Soundtracks	Gamer	New directions:	SAMBA!	SADDLEWORTH
	Electronic Dance Music	Film Music	Music for computer	Minimalism		LIVE LOUNGE
			games			Performance
ART	How do portraits change across cultures?	oss cultures?	How can personal opinion be expressed	on be expressed	How can we create new art from old?	w art from old?
			ullough Pop All:			
DRAMA	Quarantine Rave. Why did	l Phone	Playwright (John	Thief in the	The Dome	Crongton Knights –
	a secret rave take place?		Godber) /Teechers	Factory		Alex Wheatle
SPACE	Resilience	 British Values 	 KS4 Pathways 	 Study Skills 	 Staying safe 	Finance
		Careers/Labour Market	First Aid	 Online safety 	online	
		ividinet				

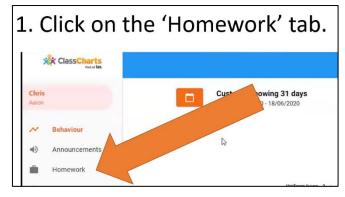
WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS FOR HOMEWORK

Students are expected to work at home to consolidate the knowledge and skills they have learnt at school. Being able to practise and study at home is important because it not only helps students to develop independence and organisational skills but also helps them to develop effective learning

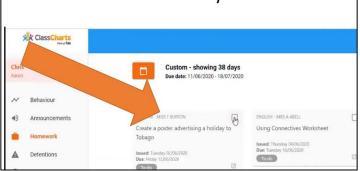
habits for future years.

Teachers will set the details about all homework tasks on Class Charts so that parents can support students to manage their time.

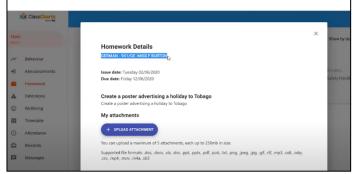
Not all homework will be completed online; students will be directed to the resources they need and instructed when and how to hand it in.



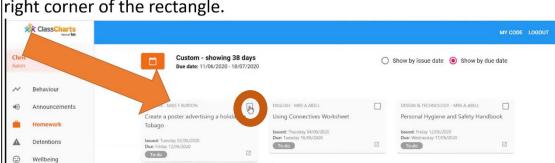
2. Click on the homework you want to view



3. Read your instructions and download any attachments



4. Once you have completed your homework, click the box in the top right corner of the rectangle.



When a student is unsure it is always best to encourage them to have a go at the homework. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if there are issues - by working together we can support students more effectively.

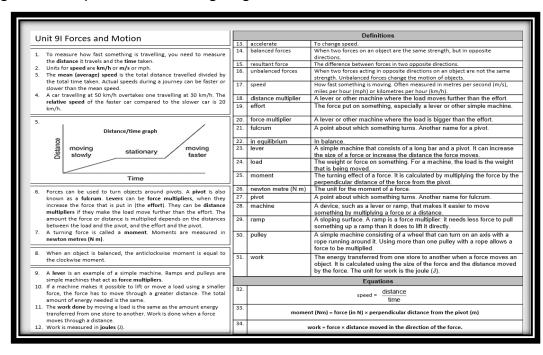
Parents and carers can play a supporting role by checking Class Charts regularly. Please ensure that your child has the time, equipment and quiet table space at home to study. Ask your child 'show me your learning... what are you most proud of?'

In KS3, a weekly homework activity will be set in Maths, English and Science and all other subjects will set homework as appropriate but twice per half term as a minimum.

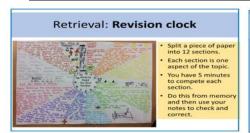
HOW SHOULD MY CHILD USE THE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS?

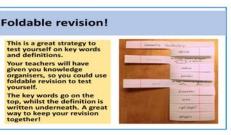
Each KS3 scheme has a 'knowledge organiser' (a sheet of the most important facts and concepts to learn) for each half term's scheme of learning. Your child should develop their independent learning skills by using the knowledge organisers in different ways to help them to prepare for assessments and learn the key information. Parents and carers can help by asking their child questions about the meanings, spellings and concepts on the knowledge organisers.

Here is an example of the Year 9
Knowledge
Organiser for Science...

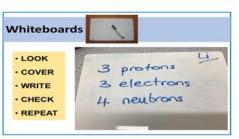


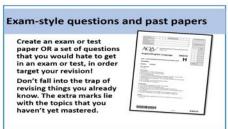
Ways to use your knowledge organiser and develop your independent learning skills.



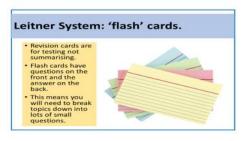


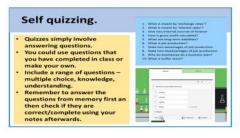














BECOMING AN INDEPENDENT LEARNER

	ndependent Skills and Qualities	Is this me yet? What can I do to help myself to develop this skill or quality?	Rate yourself
	I am organised. I manage my time by setting short term goals. I have the equipment I need.		
	I take responsibility for my actions.		
(+) (+)	I am positive. I know that I can improve if I keep trying and persevere, especially when I don't understand at all.		
3 ©	I understand that working and thinking hard now will help me to achieve in the future. I know that having a long-term goal can help me through difficult times.		
?···×	I am prepared to make and learn from mistakes. I see challenges as problems to solve. I ask the question: Why? How? What if?		
	I step out of my comfort zone and push myself to do, see and discover new things. I try out new learning techniques.		
2 2 2	I reflect. I think about how I learn. I listen to advice and act upon feedback.		
	I praise myself and remember to celebrate my success, big or small. I recognise what I have achieved and how much progress I have made.		

HOW IS MY CHILD'S WORK ASSESSED IN YEAR 9?

Each subject will have several key assessments throughout the year and an end of year exam. Each key assessment will also assess aspects of learning Here is an example of the assessment criteria that will be shared with students before they complete their first key assessment in Year 9 History. from previous schemes so that students are revisiting and consolidating their understanding throughout the year.

Students are taken through what the teacher expects Asses to see in their work in order to achieve the highest mark ('Advanced' band).

The criteria for all subjects in Years 7-9 is set out in the same way, reading left to right, from 'Foundation' to 'Advanced', so that students can see what they need to know, do and understand in order to make progress.

A student could meet the 'Secure' criteria for this first assessment but in their next assessment, depending on the skills and knowledge being assessed, their work might meet a different criteria band such as 'Working Towards' or 'Advanced'. In this way, students and teachers will be able to see where each student's strengths are and which areas they need to develop.

					į	<u> </u>
Grades reported	home	7,8,9	5,6	3,4		1,2
Assessment Bands		Advanced	Secure	Working Towards	(becoming secure)	Foundation

Assessment 1 Criteria –	Historical Interpretations (1920s USA) MARK:	(1920s USA) MARK:	/16
* You write some knowledge about the 1920s and events that happened but you have not applied it to the interpretation. *You have not reached an overall judgement.	*You are able to simply analyse the interpretation by selecting some details from it. *You have used some relevant knowledge of the context to support the overall interpretation.		*You included a detailed analysis of the interpretation with precise and detailed knowledge. *You reach a clear judgement where you independ the following
At the upper end of this band you have paraphrased or quoted information from the		interpretation. You reached an overall judgement with some reasoning.	address the now lar part of the question and reflects the main body of your answer
interpretation but not explained it.	balanced and recognised/ identified other interpretations. And made simple use of knowledge to support other interpretations.	Ar the upper end of this hard you have also used detailed knowledge to challenge the interpretation and offer support for alternative views about this period of	At the very upper end of this band you have also offered an evaluation of another interpretation to
1-4 marks	5-8 marks	history. 9-12 marks	13-16 marks
Reflection on your work:			

STUDENTS' REPORTS

Parents will be sent reports home on a termly basis. If a student has been given a grade 7, 8 or 9 in a subject it means they have been consistently meeting the 'Advanced' criteria in all of their assessments. Where a student has met different criteria bands in their key assessments, the teacher will look at the bands that have been met the most and take into account, the skills and knowledge which are most essential to the subject before awarding a grade. All students are encouraged to strive to meet the 'Advanced' criteria.

Conversation Starters for Parents and Carers to use with their child when talking about learning.

about learning.	What does mean? (Choose a word	knowledge organiser) Which part are you less confident with? How can we find out more?	Show me your work from today or this week in [name of subject]. What might your teacher say is a strength with this work? What might they say is an area to improve?	How you do you spell ?
to use with their child when talking about learning.	What can you teach me about?	What are you less sure about or find difficult to understand? What do you need to do or ask?	Show me how you are organising your work so that it is kept in the correct sequence or order. Show me how you take PRIDE in your work.	Which is your best piece of work so far? Why do you think this is?"
to use with their	What have you been learning about today?	What's your opinion on this topic?	Have you proofread your work and thought about how to improve it? Have a go at doing this and show me your improvements later.	Why do you think this might be important to know or learn?

Questions to ask your child about the book they're reading.

ָ שַׁ	Can you tell me what the book is about as a brief summary?	What has happened so far?	Who are the main characters in the story?
t o c	What do you like about this book? or What don't you like?	What genre or type of book is it?	What made you choose that book to read?
ت عالم t a a t	Who is the author?	Who is your favourite character? Describe them for me and say why you like them best.	Would you recommend that book to someone else?



THERE'S NO WAY I CAN HELP MY CHILD WITH MATHS! ... YES, you can!

Students are required to have strong numeracy skills across a range of subjects, as well as in mathematics. As with literacy, numeracy is embedded across the curriculum in many subjects, but it is particularly noticeable in Science, Geography, PE and Music where students are required to actively use their number skills in a wide range of contexts.

• Be positive about maths – research shows that parents pass on their own anxiety about maths to their children, particularly mums to daughters. It's much better to say:



- 'I don't know how to do that what can you tell me about it?'
- I've seen how much effort and time you've put into working that out, well done. Maths is about practice and solving problems, it takes time. You might not be able to understand it first time.'
- I have to work really hard at maths, but I keep improving with time.'
- 'What do you think the question is asking you to do? Can you tell me what the signs mean?'
- 'Where could we get help with this maths question?'
- Never say things like "I can't do maths" or "I hate maths" or "I'm rubbish at maths as well, don't worry." We would never say it was OK to be awful, at reading or to not bother with learning how to write! Your child may start to think that maths isn't important and that there is no point in trying they will then struggle even more with maths because they have lost confidence in their own ability.
- Point out the maths in everyday life. Include your child in activities involving numbers and measuring, such as shopping, cooking and travelling.
- Always praise your child for their effort, not their ability. It's not helpful to praise them for being 'clever' because the minute they struggle with something, they then worry that they are no longer clever. If you praise effort, it shows them that by working hard they can always improve. Research shows that progress comes from working at the things you find difficult and not giving up. We spend more time on the things we like, which is why we keep getting better at them. Just like reading, maths skills are improved by doing maths frequently and accepting that learning new concepts will take time.
- We learn in life and in maths by making mistakes. Getting things wrong and working out what went wrong, why and where, is an important part of learning.



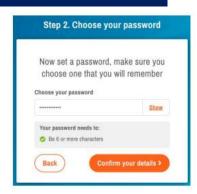
USING SPARXMATHS.COM

Sparxmaths.com is a fantastic online resource which students will use for homework and revision in Maths. Sparxmaths contains instructional videos and automatically marked assessments on every topic students learn from Year 7 up to the most challenging GCSE topics.

LOGGING ON TO SPARX

Go to **sparx.co.uk**, click 'log-in' in the top right hand corner and select 'student log-in'. Select **Saddleworth** school from the dropdown list. If this is the first time of logging in, select 'new Sparx user', enter your name and date of birth in order to confirm your username.

The first time students log in they will be asked to choose a **password** and should make sure that their chosen password is memorable and at least 6 characters long. Students can request a password re-set. This won't be immediate as it has to be authorised by the class teacher.



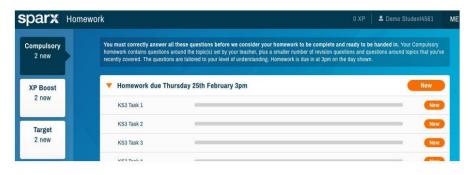
USING SPARX

Sparx homework is tailored to each student and offers just the right level of challenge, based on the topics that their teacher has set. Homework contains 3 elements: **Compulsory, XP Boost and Target**.

All questions in the **'Compulsory'** section must be answered correctly for the homework to be marked as complete.

Each task bar will show as green when fully complete. For homework to be complete, all task bars need to be green.

'XP Boost' questions are at a similar level to 'Compulsory', and offer



extra practice. 'Target' questions have been designed to provide extra challenge to students.

MISTAKES ARE PART OF LEARNING AND HELP SPARX TO DIAGNOSE STUDENTS' LEVELS

Even if a student thinks they will answer incorrectly, they should make the first attempt on a question without help. This will allow their teacher to see what they are working on, and also helps Sparx and School correctly determine their level.

If a student receives too much assistance with their homework, Sparx may think they're able to tackle more difficult questions and their work will get harder. To prevent this, parents should encourage students to attempt the question first and watch the support video <u>before</u> getting help from others.

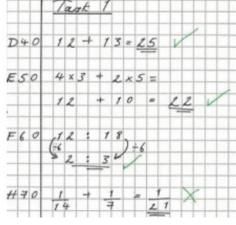
Watching the video together is a great way to support and encourage students. If a student gets a question wrong three times, Sparx will suggest they seek help and the teacher is notified.

BOOKWORK CHECKS

In Sparx, every question is accompanied by a 'bookwork code'. Students need to write the bookwork code down, and then write their workings and answer next to the code like in the example here:

When students are asked for the answer they gave for a particular bookwork code, they need to give the exact answer they wrote down, even if it was wrong. If a student fails a bookwork check in Sparx, they will need to re-do the question, even if they originally gave the correct answer. This is to encourage them to record their workings.

The more bookwork checks a student gets correct, the fewer they'll see.



WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY CHILD'S LITERACY?

At Saddleworth School, we have a whole school focus on supporting students to develop their literacy skills. We call it **'Language for Learning'** because children need literacy to engage with the written word in everyday life. Being able to read and write means being able to; express our own

emotions and opinions; communicate effectively, keep up to date with current news and understand the issues that affect our world.

 Refer to the school's language for learning initiative as seen here.

Students will be asked to **speak** in full sentences in class and to extend their answers wherever they can to practise using

	Language f	or Learning
	Speaking	We say it in a sentence.
(())	Listening	We listen with respect.
	Reading	We need to read.
× N	Writing	We plan, practise and proofread for SPaG.

an increasingly sophisticated vocabulary and to explore their own thoughts and opinions.

Listening to others is key to all effective communication. Without the ability to listen effectively, messages can be easily misunderstood resulting in frustration.

Good listening skills benefit our personal lives because we can develop better relationships. Active listeners, who really take notice of what is being said, and how it is being said, are more likely to have a greater number of friends and social networks, improved self-esteem and confidence, higher grades in academic work and even better health and general well-being. Studies have shown that, whereas speaking raises blood pressure, attentive listening can bring it down!

Make time to have a conversation with your child – discuss a story
from the news or what's happened during the day. Encourage your
child to be able to talk about how they're feeling and why – if we can
recognise our emotions, we are more able to manage them.



- Model speaking in full sentences.
- Model how to listen with concentration and sensitivity to what they are saying.

How can my child improve their writing?

- ...by reading! We pick up ideas and see different methods of communicating when we read. We learn new words to use in our own writing when we read.
- ...by talking! If we can say it, we are more likely to be able to write it which is why we promote speaking in full sentences.
- ...by practising! Writing fluency comes from practising.

Young people may spend a great deal of their time writing using technology but being able to handwrite is an essential skill in school. Writing is the way in which most students demonstrate their understanding. Writing equips us with communication and thinking skills – being able to write means that we can record our ideas and memories.

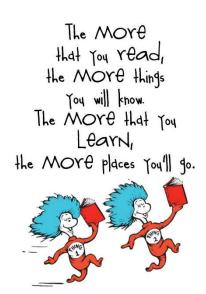
What if I need to refresh my own literacy or need some more information about literacy?

Please contact c.evans@saddleworthschool.org for a copy of Saddleworth School's 'Literacy Guide'.

MY CHILDREN WANT TO KNOW WHY I KEEP ASKING THEM TO READ!

Children often ask why they need to read – here are some useful, factual and honest responses!

- When reading, we learn new words which widens our vocabulary and makes communicating with other people easier.
- Reading improves your memory because as you read, you have to stretch your memory muscles to remember the characters, storyline, details and facts.
- Reading will boost your creativity by giving you more ideas and helping you to problem solve.
- When you read, you exercise your brain, you think more – reading increases your knowledge and so studying becomes easier.
- Reading improves your writing skills because you
 often use words, structures and even ideas that you
 have read about in your own writing.



How else can I support the development of my child's literacy?

- Talk to your child about their learning.
- Check that your child is practising writing from shopping lists to stories.
- Encourage your child to read for at least 20 minutes every night.
- Quiz your child on the meanings and spellings of key words in each subject.
- Quiz your child using the knowledge organisers form each subject.
- Check that your child is proofreading their own work for grammar and spelling errors before considering it complete.
- Encourage your child to speak in Standard English whenever appropriate.
- Promote a love of reading at home by suggesting books from the reading lists on these sites: https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk or www.booktrust.org.uk or www.lovereading4schools.co.uk

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight? Student "C" Student "A" Student "B" eads 20 minutes reads 5 minutes reads 1 minute each day each day each day 3600 minutes in 900 minutes in 180 minutes in school year a school year a school year 800,000 words 282,000 words 8,000 words

Where else can I find useful advice?

 You can find useful advice for students on the BBC Bitesize website at http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z3kw2hv

RESEARCH FINDINGS: Reading means achieving

Recent research into the reading skills of 15 year olds across the world, found that children who are more interested in reading do better at school than those who don't read for pleasure. The study also found that parents and carers who talk to their children about books, TV programmes and films help to keep their children interested in reading. Having books, newspapers and magazines around at home also made a difference to how interested children were in reading.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD TO READ MORE?

- Let your child choose what to read.
- Encourage your child to read magazines, comics, newspapers and the internet as well as books.
- Talk to your child about books or magazines you haven't enjoyed, as well as things you love.
- Buy books as presents.
- Remember that your child is reading when they are looking at bus timetables, menus, instructions, TV guides and the internet.
- Help your child to find books they will enjoy by joining the public library, if you are not already members.
- Read together.
- Talk to your child about the types of reading they are doing at secondary school; get them to explain to you what they already know about types of non-fiction (factual writing), and try to match them to the subjects your child does at school.

haven't found the right book." J.K. Rowling.

"If you don't like

to read, you

The School Library

The Library is located on Shawmere floor 2 and the School's Librarian is Mr Carter who is always at hand to recommend and help students with their reading.

Email: r.carter@saddleworthschool.org

The Library is open every day from 8am until 4pm and is open to ALL students from all year groups at break and lunch times. As well as housing more than 5,000 books, the Library has a suite of computers and a printer so that students can undertake their own research, complete homework and prepare for exams.

We have extended our school library to enable students to borrow e-books and audio books free of charge from a wide range of thousands of different books. To set up their e-account, students will need to drop into the Library.

Where else can I get books from?

Visit Oldham library webpage here and get access to online magazines, newspapers, e-books and audio books for free! www.oldham.gov.uk/libraries

Become a member of Oldham, public libraries. Membership of the library service is free to all residents in Oldham. You do not need to provide any identification in order to join. There is no minimum age for joining, but those under the age of 13 years require the presence of a parent or carer to complete registration. If you are not sure that you have an existing account then call 0161 770 8000.

Reading age tests

We use the NGRT tests to assess students' reading ages. Any student whose reading age is significantly below their chronological age is supported through a variety of reading interventions depending on their need.

HOW DOES THE SCHOOL SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING?

#respect

#kindness

Keeping our physical and mental health in check is important. Good mental health allows children and young people to develop the resilience to manage whatever life throws at them and develop into well-rounded, healthy adults.

There is clear evidence that emotional wellbeing is a key indicator of academic achievement, and subsequently improved outcomes in later life. The Department for Education has found that, on average, children with higher levels of emotional, behavioural, social and school wellbeing, had higher levels of academic achievement and were more engaged in school.

At Saddleworth School, we challenge any negative perceptions about mental health and actively discuss and promote strategies, events and organisations which support young people to understand that we all have times in our life when we need support and we need to be able to recognise the signs of poor mental health and have some helpful strategies.

Further evidence points to how a student's ability to manage their own emotions can either support or hamper their learning, commitment and ultimate school success.



- We have SPACE (Saddleworth School's Personal, Academic, Cultural Awareness and Enrichment) lessons which includes Relationships & Sex Education and provides opportunities for students to discuss and explore issues pertinent to them. We ask students for feedback and use surveys to improve provision.
- We strive to help students develop self-confidence by discussing 'growth mindset' and using a positive, optimistic language with students.
- We promote the '5 Ways to Wellbeing' and explicitly discuss strategies for coping with exams, stressful situations and frustration with learning.
- We have comprehensive pastoral support and work closely with external agencies to support young people with interventions to meet their identified needs.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD'S WELLBEING?

- 1. Encourage them to get their 5 Ways to Wellbeing each day.
- 2. **Talk to them about mental health and the importance of good sleep**, 8-10 hours per night. Using phones, tablets and laptops can impact on our sleep keep screens out of bedrooms!
- 3. **Model good habits** If you are taking care of your own mental health, it's easier for them to see what good habits look like.
- 4. **Consider your own and their use of phones and social media**. More than 2 hours per day on social media is excessive. We're also more likely to listen to one another if we're not distracted by technology.
- 5. **Notice any changes in your child's behaviour**. Knowing what is normal for your child makes it easier to notice when things change, and if this might be a sign that they're struggling.

The 5 Ways to Wellbeing



Connect

Connect with people around you. Spend time with your friends and family. Make new friends. Use different ways to communicate.



Be Active

Go for a walk or a run. Cycle, dance or play a game. Walk to school instead of getting the bus. Go to the park. Try a new activity.



Take Notice

Take time to be still, reflect, and become aware of your surroundings. Notice what you are thinking and be aware of what's going on in the world around you: the everyday and the unusual. Be curious. Savour your favourite food and try new foods.



Keep Learning

Set yourself a goal. Learn something new. Research something you're interested in. Learn a new word or a random fact. Remember that making mistakes is an important of learning...so you know how to improve.



Give

Do something nice for a friend. Thank someone. Smile. Volunteer your time. Raise money for charity. Be a good role model. Being kind to others will see others being kind to you.

ORGANISATIONS WHICH PROVIDE ADVICE AND SUPPORT



For information on internet safety and a parent and carers guide to online monitoring of your children's internet use, go to:



www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

For information and support on mental health and wellbeing.



https://youngminds.org.uk



https://www.kooth.com



https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind



https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/improvemental-wellbeing

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We are a	We are	We are resilient and	We celebrate our	We participate
community.	responsible.	optimistic.	differences.	with enthusiasm.
 We are polite and 	 We learn how to look after 	 We aim high and are determined 	 We challenge prejudice. 	 We make the most of
considerate to each other.	our physical and mental	to achieve our goals.	 We develop our understanding 	every opportunity.
 We look after our 	health.	 We understand that it's part of 	of the world and our role as a	 We have a positive
environment.	 We make informed decisions. 	life and learning to make	global citizen.	attitude.
	We reflect on what's	mistakes.	 We help and care for those in 	 We step outside of our
	happened and why.	 We keep trying. 	need.	comfort zones.
How do my behaviours affect	What are the 5 ways to	What am I good at?	What is it to be an upstander?	What am I enthusiastic
others?	wellbeing?	What could I be really brilliant at?	What's a bystander?	about? How intrepid am I?
What is it to be a friend?	How does exercise help my	What is a growth mind-set? Why does	What is oppression?	Why should I step outside
What are the ingredients of a	wellbeing?	effort trump talent?	What is prejudice?	my comfort zone?
good relationship?	What do I know about the	What's the power of 'yet'?	How empathetic am I?	What opportunities are
What is kindness?	teenage brain?	Who would be an excellent role	What is an effective way of	available to me?
How does the kindness of	How do I deal with my emotions?	model? Who/What inspires me?	challenging someone's views?	Who can I ask for help?
others make us feel?	Can I control anger?	What do I want for myself in the	How can I find out more about the	Who could I support?
What does being kind to	What makes me tick? What	future? What will I need to do to get	world? Do I believe everything I	Who might participate with
others do for me?	makes me upset? How do I lift	there?	read or hear?	me?
What is it to be unkind?	my own spirits? What makes me	Why do we need to read?	What happened in the news	How can I make sure I get
What do I care about? Are	over-react?	What does it mean to be 'digitally	today? What can I do to be more	involved and make the most
these things just important to	What is 'appropriate	literate'?	involved in the issues that are	of each day?
me?	behaviour'? Can Lexplain calmly	What is 'glass half empty'?	important to me?	What is a 'team player'?
What do I value?	to others how I am feeling?	What is optimism?	What is suffering?	What might stop me from
What is integrity?	Why is communication	How can I become an independent	Who helps those in need?	participating?
What is a 'community'?	important?	learner? What does an excellent	Can one person change things?	Why does a positive attitude
How important is it to feel that	What is 'active listening'?	learner do?	Why volunteer?	make such a difference?
you belong?	How do I develop critical thinking	What is meta-cognition?	Why are charities needed?	What is humour?
What can you do to make you	skills?	How do I respond to criticism and	What change would I like to see in	What is sarcasm?
feel proud of our community?	Why is it important to reflect?	feedback? How can I develop	the world?	It was just a joke. Is there a
How can our community	How do I manage change?	resilience?	What is the 'rule of law'?	funny side for everyone?
change for the better?	What does 'controlling the	What does it feel like outside my	How do we show 'mutual respect'?	Which type of humour helps
What could be your legacy for	controllables' mean?	comfort zone? How can I develop my	What is 'democracy'?	and which hurts?
our community?	How can I lead a happy and	self-confidence?	What is 'individual liberty'?	What makes me laugh?
	fulfilling life?	Why are problem-solving skills	Who protects human rights?	What power is there in
		important?		laughter?

Keeping tabs on my 5 a day!



nns below
the columns
today i
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mentally
ot yourself
ke
v you've
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down
Write

CONNECT	BE ACTIVE	TAKE NOTICE	KEEP	Give
Examples: • Ask a friend about their weekend and pay attention and listen when they tell you. • Make contact with someone you used to hang out with. • Ask your parents or carer about their childhood. • Write a letter or send a postcard to someone. • Smile at a person on the street and say hello.	Examples: Play your favourite song and dance to it. Walk to school. Go to your local park. Stretch and move your limbs in the morning, midday and evening. Work it out! Walk the dog. Do some gardening.	Examples: • Take notice of what you are thinking. Not to judge or be hard on yourself, but just to be more aware of yourself. • Really savour every mouthful of your lunch, noticing the texture, flavour, how the food feels, tastes. • Consider your strengths – do you make the most of them? • Watch animals and birds outside.	Examples: • Learn a new word. • Create a quiz to do with your family. Learn a new language. • Learn a new dance routine or the words to a new song. • Learn more about your family history.	Examples: Smile and be willing to give your time to a conversation. Check up on a friend. Say thank you to someone who has helped you - send a text, or message or write them a letter to show how much it meant to you.

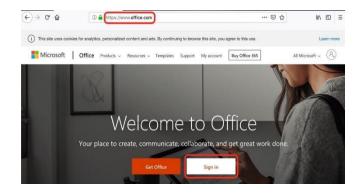
HOW DO WE GET SETUP FOR ONLINE LEARNING FROM HOME?

This document shows students and parents how to access the key areas in Office 365.

Office 365 Login: Students should open a web browser and go to the website www.office.com then click Sign In.

Their sign-in email address is of the format surnameforename@saddleworthschool.org:





For double-barrel names use a hyphen e.g. bloggs-bloggsjoe@saddleworthschool.org.

The **password** is the same password that students use to log onto a computer at school.

Office 365 Apps:

Once the email and password are entered students will arrive at the Office 365 home page.



There are 4 key areas we will focus on:

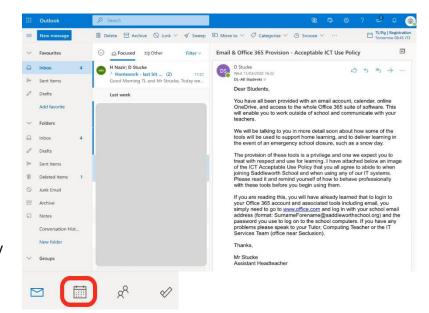
- 1. Install Office: Our education license means that students can install the full Microsoft Office suite of software on any family devices. If you are on a traditional computer you can download and install them via the 'Install Office' link. If you are using a phone or a tablet you can download the Word, PowerPoint etc apps from the App Store. When the applications are installed they will ask you to sign in to register them. Use the email address and password from the previous step. The whole family can benefit from these applications.
- 2. Outlook: This contains the student email and calendar.
- **3. OneDrive:** This is an online folder where students can store their electronic work, this can be accessed from any device in or out of school.
- **4. Teams:** This is our class-based communication tool and learning platform.

I'm not sure how to use Outlook. Is it easy to use?

Clicking the Outlook icon from www.office.com will bring students to their email:

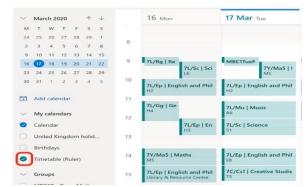
Students can read emails and reply to emails (but only to addresses within school).

At the bottom left of the screen, students can switch to their calendar by clicking the small calendar icon:



Students should turn on the 'Timetable (Ruler)' calendar by checking the box next to it – this will add their timetable to their calendar. During a normal school day, this will allow students to see their lessons for the day ahead.

Students may choose to download and install the Outlook app to a phone or tablet. This gives them easy access to their email and school calendar at all times.



How does OneDrive work?

Tapping the 9 square 'waffle' menu in the top left of any Office 365 website brings up the application switcher. OneDrive can be accessed from this menu.

This is an online folder where students can store their electronic work, this can be accessed from any device in or out of school. Students have been encouraged in school lessons to copy their school network documents into

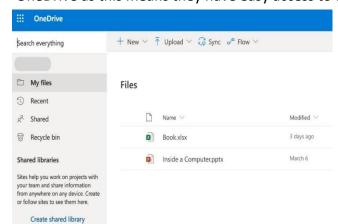
Office 365 →

Apps

Outlook

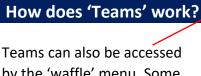
OneDrive :

OneDrive as this means they have easy access to them from home.



If students complete work at home and save it into their OneDrive they can easily access it again at school. Uploading files is as simple as dragging and dropping from a computer folder if working on a computer.

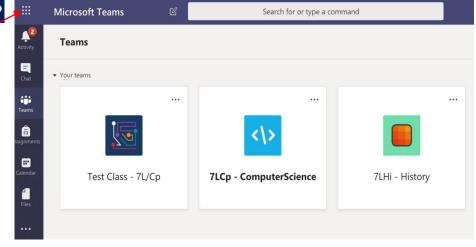
Again, a OneDrive app is available for tablets and phones that gives access to files on those devices.



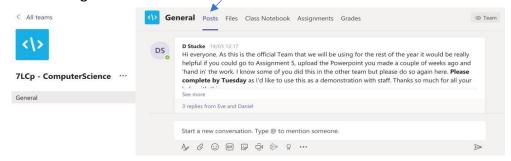
by the 'waffle' menu. Some subjects use Teams.

Students should find a Team for each class that they have in school.

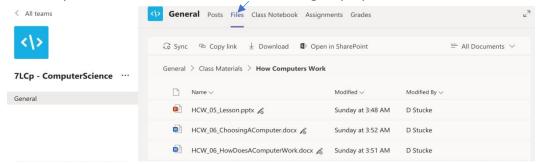
Clicking on a class icon will open up the Team for that class.



The 'Posts' section will have messages from the teacher and other students:



The 'Files' section stores any files that have been shared with the group by the teacher:

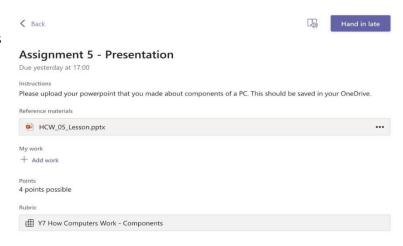


The 'Assignments' section is where specific learning tasks may have been shared. This would be used if students have a deadline to work to, or work to return:



To complete assignments in Teams, students should read the instructions carefully. Either complete the attached files or use the 'attach' button to upload other work. Once the student's work is completed and ready to send to their teacher, they have to press the 'Hand In' button.





As well as a 'Team' for each class, students will find they are a member of a Year Team called 'Class of '.

What if we're struggling to understand how to use MS Teams? What if we haven't got a laptop? We're having technical issues!



The IT team at Saddleworth School will try to support you wherever possible. We do have a few laptops available for students to loan.

Please phone the School Reception on 01457 872072 to ask to speak to Mr Gary Hudson or Miss Evans or email them on g.hudson@saddleworthschool.org or c.evans@saddleworthschool.org



Class Charts is a great online tool for parents and students. At Saddleworth, we use Class Clarts for attendance, behaviour, homework, recognition and communication. Parents and students require a log on. Please refer to the separate Class Charts booklet for more details or contact your child's Home School Leader or the General Admin Office.