

11th November 2020

Dear Parent / carer

Re: Information about home/blended learning

During the ever changing and challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic, Heron Hall Academy continues to review all options available which allow us to continue to deliver quality teaching as 'home/blended learning' becomes part of the new normal.

Heron Hall recently introduced the use of Google Classroom in order to support students with home/blended learning. In order to further improve the provision, we have elected to use a system called GCSE Pod and further information can be found on their website. www.gcsepod.com

Home/blended learning allows schools to electronically and virtually support those pupils who are unable to attend school in person where those absences are in line with government guidance and statutory attendance requirements. It also provides students with access to revision materials and resources whilst they are not in school in order to support them with their GCSE exams.

Students will receive information during an assembly as to how they can access and use GCSE Pod.

Other than assignments and homework, GCSE Pod does not seek nor process any additional personal data to that which we already collect upon admission to the school; in fact, it only requires a very small subset of that.

A pupils' ID, date of birth, surname and admission number will be imported and then they can use their school email address to create a personal account through which we can set assignments and monitor progress.



This will form part of the pupils' school education record and kept whilst the pupil remains at the school and until 25 years from their date of birth. It will be transferred to their new secondary school if the pupil leaves in-year before completing the final year.

Further information about the personal data we process can be found in the document entitled '*Privacy notice Academy pupils and parents*'. Our '*Data protection policy*' also provides an overview of GDPR and your rights. Both of these are available in the data protection section of the policy page on our school website. www.heronhallacademy.org.uk/Policies

We hope to have GCSE Pod in place by Monday 16th November and there are also parent resources and blogs available should you be interested. www.gcsepod.com/parent-resources/

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us

Kind regards



Arthur Barzey
Headteacher

