

2020-21 REVIEW AND CONTINUE

MISSION

- To ensure students make exceptional progress through high quality, specialist, consistent teaching and learning.
- To provide powerful learning environments that respond to individual and accommodate the needs of all of our students.
- To build confidence and promote the life values of independence and interdependence.
- To develop characteristics of perseverance and resilience.
- To build on new skills and approaches developed during school closure and embed a fully blended approach incorporating elements of remote learning through homework.



HOME LEARNING REVIEW

We are aware that we have students coming to us from a range of primary schools who have all approached the delivery of home learning in different ways. We want to reassure you that we are fully prepared to accommodate the inevitable differences in prior learning that students will bring with them to secondary school as a consequence of this.

In order to ensure our teaching staff are fully prepared for the new term, we have been working collaboratively with our feeder primary schools to ascertain where the students are in their learning, and what potential 'learning gaps' they anticipate their pupils having as a result of the school closures. This has informed our planning and we have adapted our curriculum to mitigate the impact.

BASELINE TESTING

Another tool we have to support us in building a clear picture of current ability level and prior knowledge is the CATS tests and GL assessments. These are Nationally recognised baseline tests that will provide our teachers with a full picture of your child's current level so they can respond to their learning needs. These will take place in lessons and students will be reassured that the results will be used to inform their teachers, and are therefore nothing for them to worry about. Furthermore, no preparation is required for these tests.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

We are excited to share some updates to the school's curriculum: Our commitment to the STEAM subjects continues, there will be dedicated lessons on the timetable for each of the elements found within STEAM. This means your child will have access to Performing Arts, DT, Computing and Art lessons weekly with the STEAM employability skills delivered through subject lessons. In all lessons students have the opportunity to develop their personal skills so that they become the most employable students in Corby.

ACTIVITIES WEEK

Each year, we run an activities week for year 7 students. This is designed to support students in making new friends, and building confidence amongst their new cohort. Within this week, tutors work closely with their tutor group, to develop a strong and supportive relationship. Although some of the activities may require adaptation this year due to the Covid-19 regulations, we are committed to ensuring that this week still takes place in a moderated format later in the year. More information will be shared with students nearer the time.

BLENDING LEARNING

One of the positive consequences of the period of school closure is that teachers and students alike have developed new skills in delivering and undertaking remote learning. For those students who are new to our platforms of Microsoft Teams and Show My Homework, training will be provided in school.

Digital literacy is important to us as the research tells us that students can increase their progress by an average of 5 months of schooling by complimenting their in school learning with home learning activities ([EEF, 2020](#)).

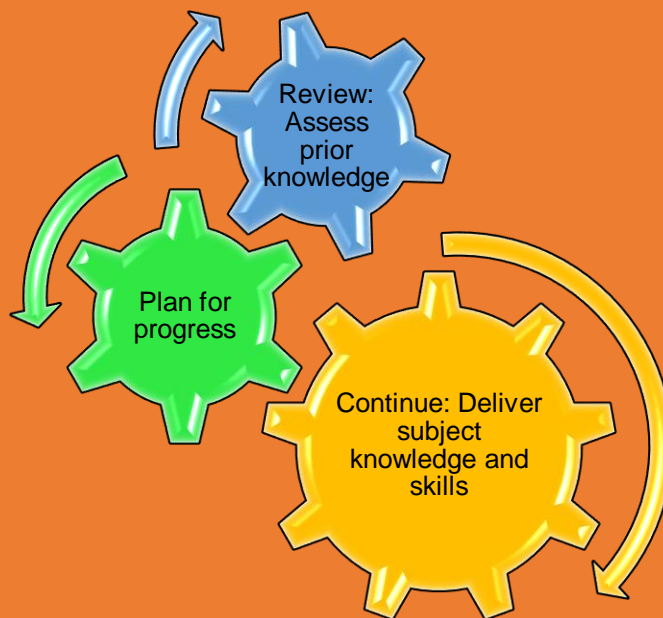
We will therefore be rolling out a comprehensive programme of directed self study and additional resources online that can be used for revisiting key concepts or preparing for the next topic.

We will be continuing to make use of high quality National resources such as those developed by Oak National Academy to work alongside more original elements created by our teaching team.

This will also mean that students are able to transition smoothly back into a remote learning approach should shielding or further school closure become necessary.

For students who don't have access to IT at home, alternative approaches will be provided by making use of school resources.

REVIEW AND CONTINUE



The review and continue model is an extension of our usual pedagogical approach, with an amplified emphasis on the review of prior learning. This is essential to ensure students have the threshold knowledge and skills to enable them to access the new learning.

WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH TELL US?

At CTS, we believe in ensuring our approaches to teaching and learning are research informed. If you would like to read more of the research that we have referenced in developing our approach, please see some highlighted below:

'Independent practice provides students with the additional review and elaboration they need to become fluent.' [Rosenshine \(2012\)](#)

During the Christchurch earthquakes in 2011, students missed significant amounts of time in school and data shows results didn't suffer. [John Hattie \(2020\)](#) explains how he thinks the **redesigned curriculum** contributed to this.

According to Ausubel, "the most important single factor influencing learning is what the learner already knows". **Meaningful learning**...occurs when humans relate new concepts to **pre-existing familiar concepts**. [Vallori \(2014\)](#) explains this in depth.

