



Wirral Met College

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Taking part in live-streamed online lessons – a guide for students, parents & carers

The majority of student timetables now include online lessons accessed from home, in addition to the face-to-face lessons in college. During these online lessons you will be able to interact with your teachers and other students on your course, via Microsoft Teams at specified times shown on your timetable. Below are the answers to some questions you may have about this new approach to online teaching. Please share this information with your parent/carer where appropriate, particularly if you are under 18.

How will I know when a live-streamed online lesson is going to take place?

The lesson will be shown as an online lesson on your timetable. There may also be other meetings or tutorials you are asked to attend; in this instance you will be contacted in advance by your teacher, via email or text, with the details.

Where should I do my live-streamed lessons?

Take care when deciding where to do these lessons. Ideally you should be seated at a desk or table if available. Lying on a bed is not appropriate. Be aware of anything in your surroundings which you may not want others to see when you are online (e.g. personal items). If you are sitting in front of a window, close the curtain/blind. You can use the 'apply background effects' function in Microsoft Teams to change or blur your background if it would make you more comfortable to not show your surroundings.

What should I wear?

We expect you to dress appropriately for live-streamed lessons, as you would in college, but we do not require you to wear uniforms.

Is this safe?

You will be working on your college-managed Office 365 account, which has safeguarding features in place. We will only direct you to secure and trusted sites, and access to our online lessons is restricted to our own students. However, with any online learning from home we would always recommend that you review the security settings on your own device, and set any restrictions as appropriate. We also ask all students to be vigilant to online bullying, and report any concerns to their tutor or via besafe@wmc.ac.uk. Remember that the college's normal expectations regarding behaviour still apply to online lessons.

What if I don't want to appear on the screen?

There will be times in the lesson where you may not need your camera on – however you need to be prepared to have your camera on at any point in the lesson. Your tutor may need you to respond to questions and be able to see you when you respond. You may be asked to demonstrate something or go into break-out groups and talk to your peers. It's very important that you are prepared to have your camera on in order to make the lessons as

engaging as possible; just as it's important in class at college to communicate effectively with your teacher and classmates, it is the same when online.

What if I don't have a camera/microphone?

You may be able to borrow a laptop from college in order to have a camera and microphone to be able to interact in online lessons. Please speak to one of your tutors to ask about borrowing a laptop. In exceptional circumstances, you could participate in live-streamed lessons without a camera and microphone (by using the 'chat' feature), however this is not acceptable in the long-term as you will be required to actively participate in online lessons to achieve your qualification.

Am I allowed to record the lesson?

No. In order to ensure everyone feels comfortable, students are not allowed to record online lessons just as they are not allowed to video lessons that take place in college. Filming/recording students/staff without permission is a disciplinary matter and will be treated very seriously. If you do normally have permission to record lessons due to your additional needs, please contact your teacher or your Additional Learning Support tutor to discuss this as soon as possible, so that we can establish the best solution for you. The tutor may decide to record the lesson for students to refer back to as a revision aid – if the lesson is going to be recorded the tutor will make you aware and the recorded video will remain within the Teams site you are part of.

Will this use a lot of my data allowance?

Live-streaming video can use a LOT of data. This is not usually a problem on home wi-fi, and our livestreamed lessons will use much less data than watching Netflix etc. However, if you have a very limited data allowance on your home Wi-fi, or if you use mobile data (4G/5G), please check your contract carefully to avoid incurring any unexpected charges. The college cannot be held responsible for any costs you might incur in this way.

What if my WiFi connection at home isn't very good?

We appreciate that this will be a problem in some households, depending on their location and their provider. It will also be affected by the number of other people at home who are online at the same time. If you aren't able to connect to the live-streamed lessons due to poor connectivity at home, you are able to use the Study Zone areas in college. The Study Zones are a safe space for you to be able to access lessons using the College's wifi – you can bring a laptop in or use a college computer/laptop and borrow headphones if required.