

# Sackville News

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021



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Dear Parents and Carers

This week we received the news that we have all been waiting for, and we are now able to plan for the **return of students to school next month**. The whole community is looking forward to this first step back towards normality.

Of course, the virus is still very much with us, and just as the January lockdown was absolutely necessary, we will need to continue to run the school in a COVID-secure manner for a number of months. Once the students return, the school day will feel very similar to that of the autumn term. The key changes are that **regular home COVID testing** will become part of life for all who consent, and that **face masks** will be worn by students in classrooms as well as corridors, at least until the Easter break.

The return of students in March can only take place once those consenting to a **COVID test have received one negative result**. There will be a **second test once the students are back in school** during the week beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>. I am sure you can imagine that delivering these tests for a community of nearly 2000 is quite a logistical challenge, but we are fortunate in already having an established system which has successfully **carried out over 1000 tests this term**. More importantly, we are so fortunate to benefit from the **careful and detailed leadership** of Mr Bush, who so successfully managed the return of students from lockdown 1 last summer as well as the full opening of the school in the autumn. Mr Bush presents his plan later in Sackville News; I would like to thank him for this very important work.



I would also like to **thank the very many parents and carers** who offered to support our testing programme when we first were tasked with delivering it at the start of the year. With the eventual transition to home-tests, we will be mass-testing in school for a far shorter period, and so rather than ask volunteers to undergo lengthy training for one or two sessions, we feel we will be able to manage largely with our existing staff.

Please read the plan carefully, as **year groups are to be tested on different days and will therefore return to school at different times**. To get our older students in at the earliest possible opportunity, we are also **starting our testing programme next week**.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March will therefore be **consolidation days** for students to complete any outstanding work. No new work will be set for those days, nor will there be any live lessons; I do hope parents understand our need to take this path in preparation for the reopening.



You may now be aware that we have suffered a **ransomware attack on our school network**. This has seriously compromised our IT facilities and has meant we have not been able to host our in-school students for the final two days of this week. We very much appreciate the support of parents with this. Mr Lewis and Mr Ives are working tirelessly to ensure the network is up and running as soon as possible.

We have decided to move the **year 9 parents' evening**, originally calendared for Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March, into the summer term. This is to allow the students more time back in school before we report on their progress to parents. We are going to review the dates of events over the rest of the year now that we are clear about the return of students, and any changes will be communicated in a future edition of *Sackville News*.

Earlier this term, Mr Millican and Mr Endersby sent all of our students a **questionnaire to ascertain their views on remote learning**. They have broken down the main findings of the survey by year group. Overall it gives a positive picture of the student experience since Christmas, and supports feedback from the parental survey and the parents' focus group. The findings are summarised later in the newsletter.

What is clear from our surveys is that our **students have been progressing very well through our schemes of work**. They are extremely well placed for their return to face-to-face schooling. They also come out of lockdown **much better equipped to revise and study independently**. I am extremely optimistic about the prospects of this generation of students – they are certainly much better equipped than I was at their age!

Finally, we heard yesterday final details on how our **exam year students will get their grades this summer**. As you know, we are scheduling a timetable of **final written assessments** from May 3<sup>rd</sup>. These will be based on previous exams and sample questions set by the exam board. Scores will be **rigorously moderated** to ensure grades are completely fair across the school. Results from these assessments will be viewed alongside **other substantial evidence** to support the award of **school-assessed grades**. Exam boards will be **performing checks** to ensure that school grades are not out of line with what would be expected for particular

schools. All of this means that we are confident that when the results are issued on **August 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**, they will be just and fair reward for our students' hard work.

It is going to be a **busy few months**, but I am confident that we will see some **spectacular achievements by our hard-working students** and, as ever, Sackville staff and parents giving their all to this end.

Thank-you once again for your support and help as we navigate this next set of challenges.

With best wishes for a safe and healthy week.

Julian Grant  
Headteacher

## Planning for the return to face-to-face teaching from 8th March 2021

On Monday 22nd February the Department for Education published new guidance outlining how schools should plan for the return of students to school after lockdown. The key points are as follows:

- Students from **all year groups** will return to school from 8th March, though this will be **phased** to allow asymptomatic lateral flow testing to be completed.
- Students should attend lessons after a negative lateral flow test (LFT) has been completed. Over 1000 of these tests have been successfully completed at Sackville by staff and key worker students since January. They are quick and our staff will patiently guide students through each step of the process. However, testing is subject to parental consent and students unable to be tested (e.g. for medical reasons) are still entitled to attend school. It is therefore essential that the **consent form [here is completed](#)**. Students who have tested positive for Covid in the last 90 days should not take a LFT as it risks a false positive result; please indicate this on the [consent form](#).
- Two or three LFTs will be completed by students in school before switching to **home testing** twice weekly.
- **Face masks** are now also **required in classrooms as well as in corridors** where students are unable to be socially distanced from their peers. This is likely to be reviewed by the national government at Easter.
- There is a strong emphasis on the need to maintain the strict control measures that were previously in place, including the **use of zones & student bubbles** for the foreseeable future. Other control measures, such as regular **hand sanitising** and **good ventilation** remain essential.

As you can imagine, the return to school will require a significant adjustment to our working practices, not least as we are expected to supervise **several thousand LFTs** in addition to delivering lessons as usual. As such we have carefully planned the return of students as outlined below.

Date	Actions
<b>Before Thursday March 4th 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of the school site for return including deep cleaning as necessary.</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 4th March 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consolidation and catch-up day one for students.</b> On this day, staff will be returning to school to take their own LFT, organise teaching spaces (including the return of digital hardware) and plan for the arrival of students.</li> <li>• As such there will be no live lessons and instead students will be asked to complete outstanding work or extend their knowledge through further reading or extension activities.</li> <li>• We are sorry as a result of this not to be able to provide key worker student places on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th March, particularly given this week's disruption caused by our network outage.</li> <li>• <b>Y8 Parents' Evening 15:00 - 19:00 (online)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Friday 5th March 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidation and catch-up day two for students.</li> <li>• Staff continue preparing for students' return, in school as necessary and <b>supervise mass testing</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Morning:</b> Mass testing of year 11 students.</li> <li>• <b>Afternoon:</b> Mass testing of year 12 and 13 students.</li> <li>• Note that students must return straight home after their first LFT to await their result. Information will follow soon with details of when students should arrive and where they should go.</li> </ul>

Date	Actions
<b>Monday 8th March 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 11, 12 and 13 students begin face-to-face teaching in school.</li> <li>• <b>Morning:</b> Mass testing of year 10 students.</li> <li>• <b>Afternoon:</b> Mass testing of year 9 students</li> <li>• Note that students must return straight home after their first LFT to await their result. Information will follow soon with details of when students should arrive and where they should go.</li> <li>• Year 7 and 8 students will complete independent work set on the usual platforms.</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 9th March 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 9-13 students attend face-to-face teaching in school.</li> <li>• <b>Morning:</b> Mass testing of year 7 students.</li> <li>• <b>Afternoon:</b> Mass testing of year 8 students</li> <li>• Note that students must return straight home after their first LFT to await their result. Information will follow soon with details of when students should arrive and where they should go.</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 10th March 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students attend face-to-face teaching in school. However, some students will be released from lessons to complete their second LFT as below.</li> <li>• <b>Morning:</b> Mass testing of year 11 students (test 2)</li> <li>• <b>Afternoon:</b> Mass testing of year 12 &amp;13 students (test 2)</li> <li>• Note that students will need to leave their lessons and will return to them when testing has been completed.</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 11th March 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students attend face-to-face teaching in school. However, some students will be released from lessons to complete their second LFT as below.</li> <li>• <b>Morning:</b> Mass testing of year 10 students (test 2)</li> <li>• <b>Afternoon:</b> Mass testing of year 9 students (test 2)</li> <li>• Note that students will need to leave their lessons and will return to them when testing has been completed.</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 12th March 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students attend face-to-face teaching in school. However, some students will be released from lessons to complete their second LFT as below.</li> <li>• <b>Morning:</b> Mass testing of year 7 students (test 2)</li> <li>• <b>Afternoon:</b> Mass testing of year 8 students (test 2)</li> <li>• Note that students will need to leave their lessons and will return to them when testing has been completed.</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 15th March 2021 onwards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will begin twice weekly at-home testing, or complete a third LFT as required.</li> </ul>

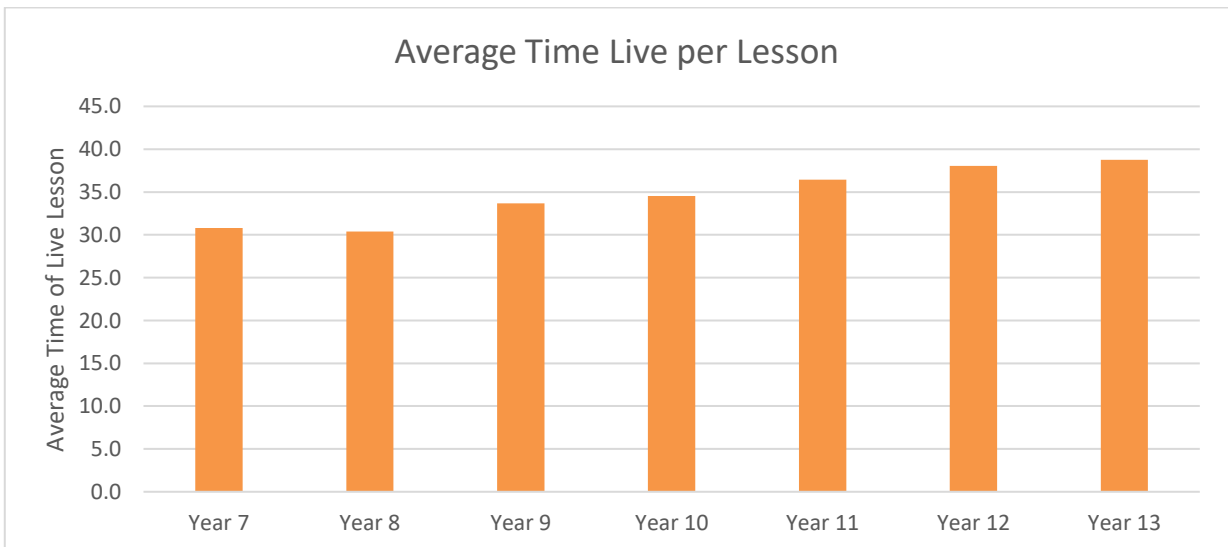
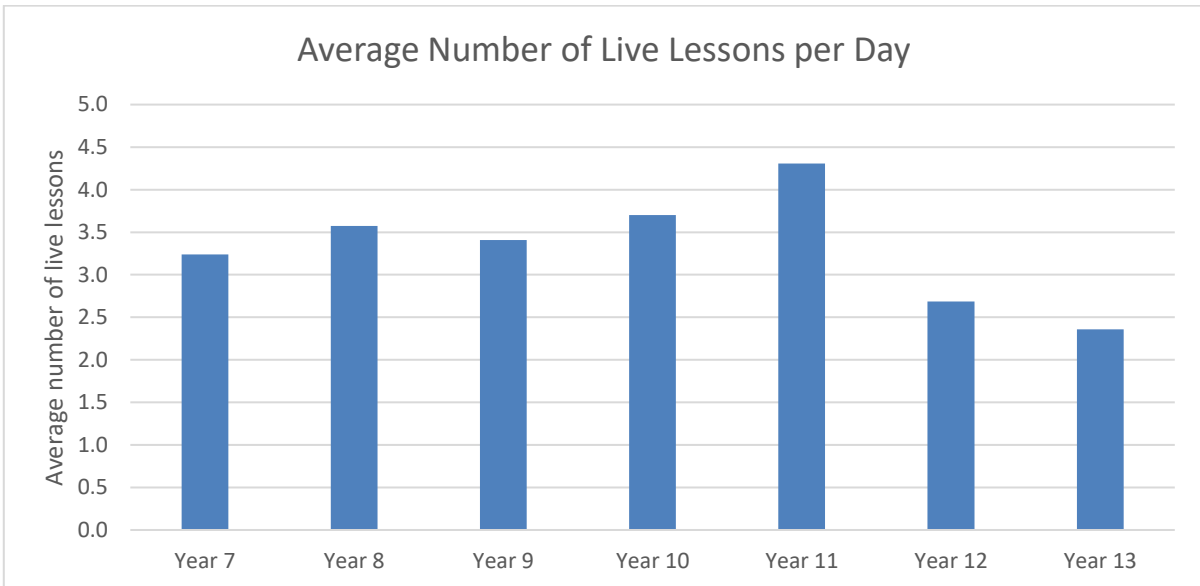
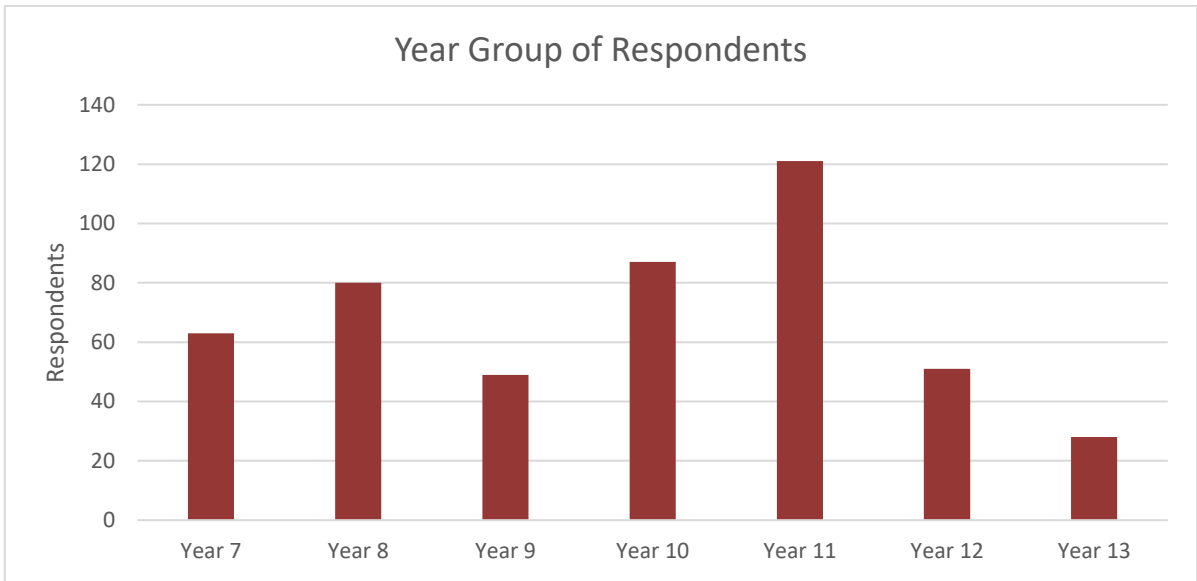
A detailed set of instructions, including timings of lateral flow tests, will be issued to students and parents as soon as possible **during the week beginning 1st March**. A timetable of plans is summarised on the following page in a more helpful format.

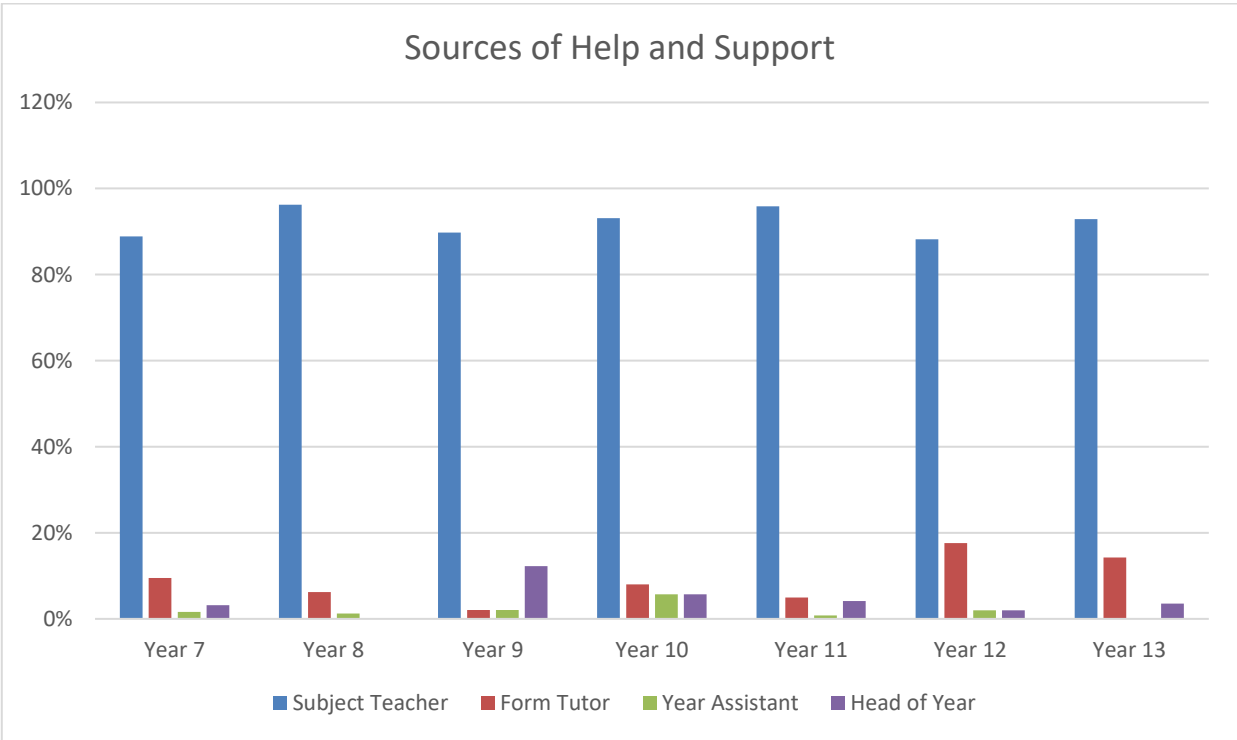
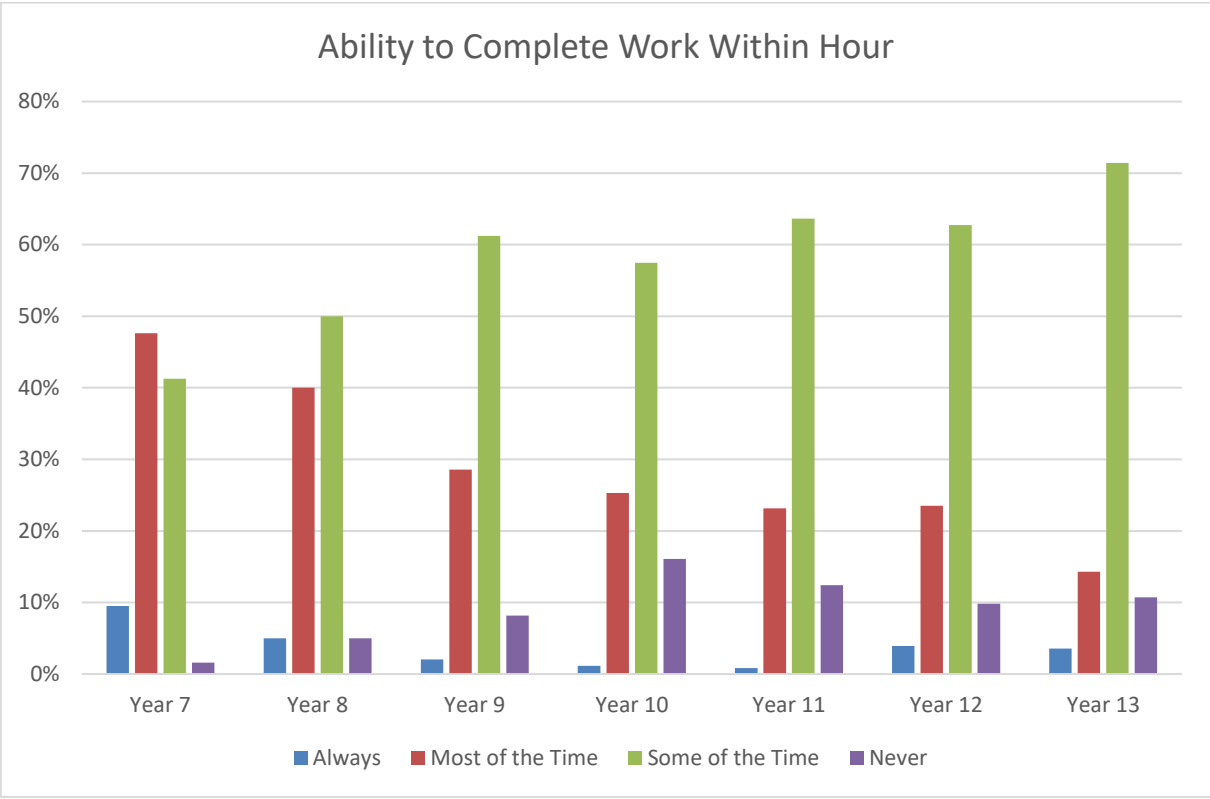
Should you have any questions please, by all means, email me at [sbush@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:sbush@sackvilleschool.org.uk)

**Mr S Bush**

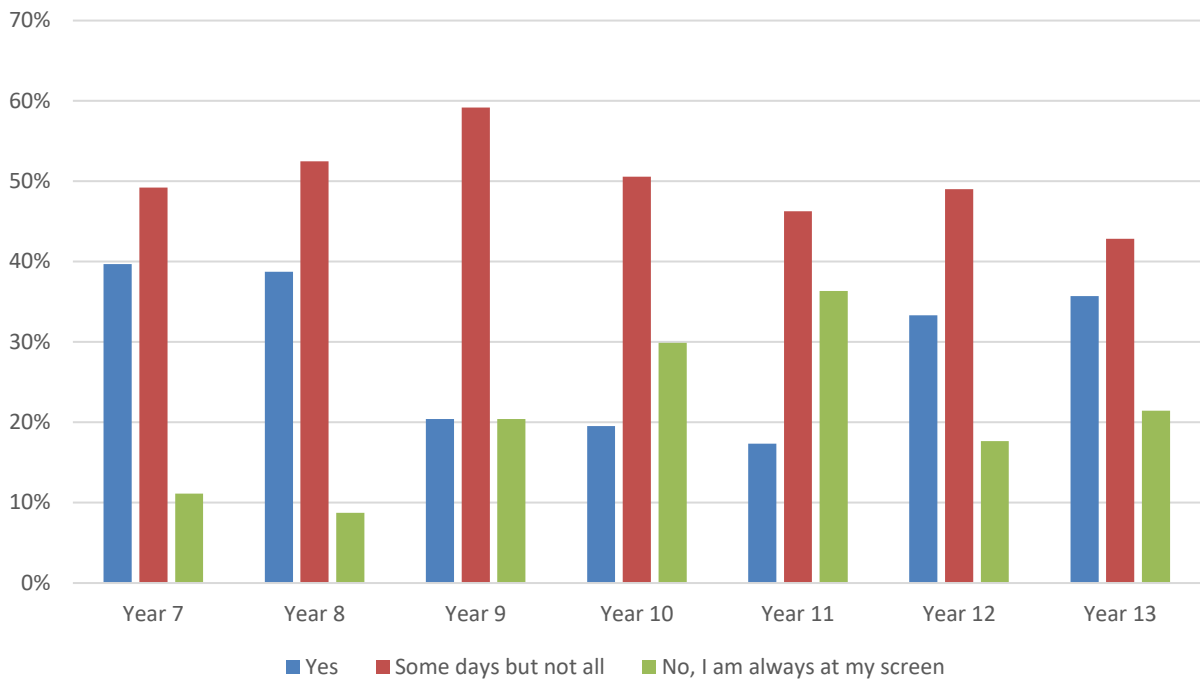
Year Group	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March
7	Consolidation days		Complete independent work set	Testing	In school	In school	Testing/in school
8	Consolidation days		Complete independent work set	Testing	In school	In school	Testing/in school
9	Consolidation days		Testing	In school	In school	Testing/in school	In school
10	Consolidation days		Testing	In school	In school	Testing/in school	In school
11	Consolidation day	Testing	In school	In school	Testing/in school	In school	In school
12	Consolidation day	Testing	In school	In school	Testing/in school	In school	In school
13	Consolidation day	Testing	In school	In school	Testing/in school	In school	In school

# Student survey findings

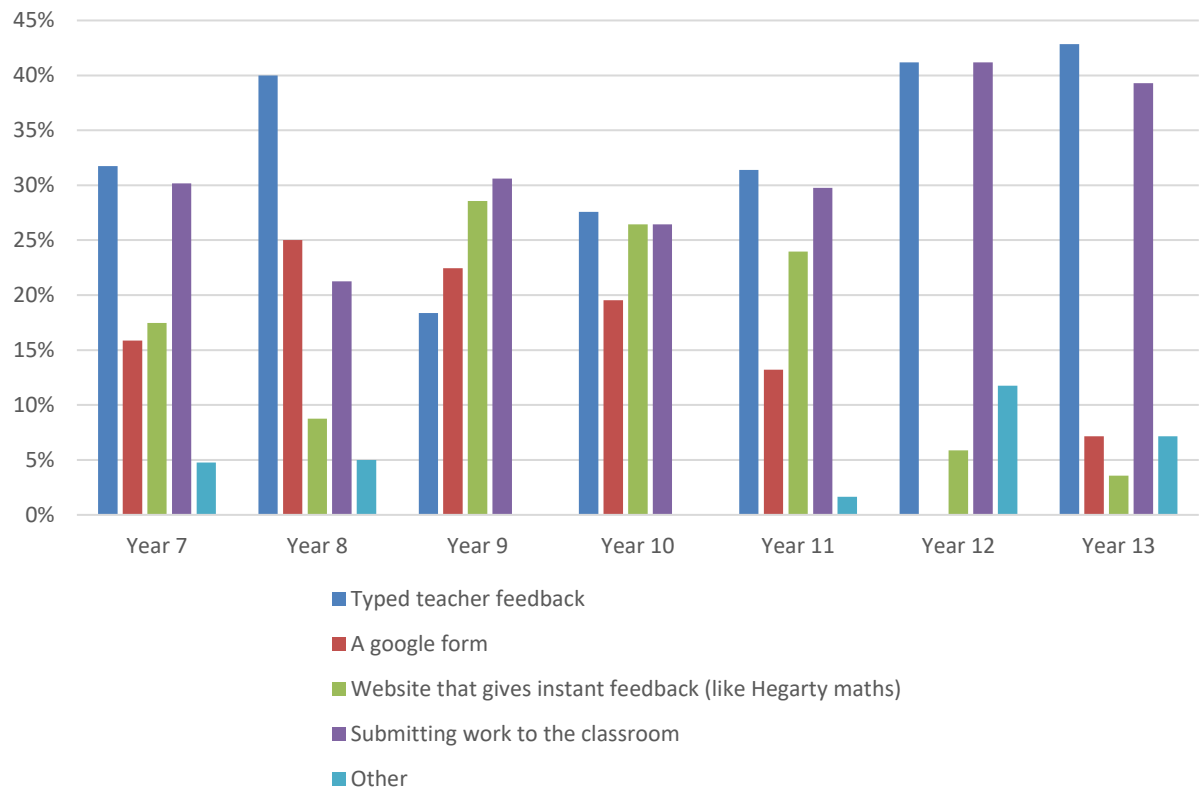




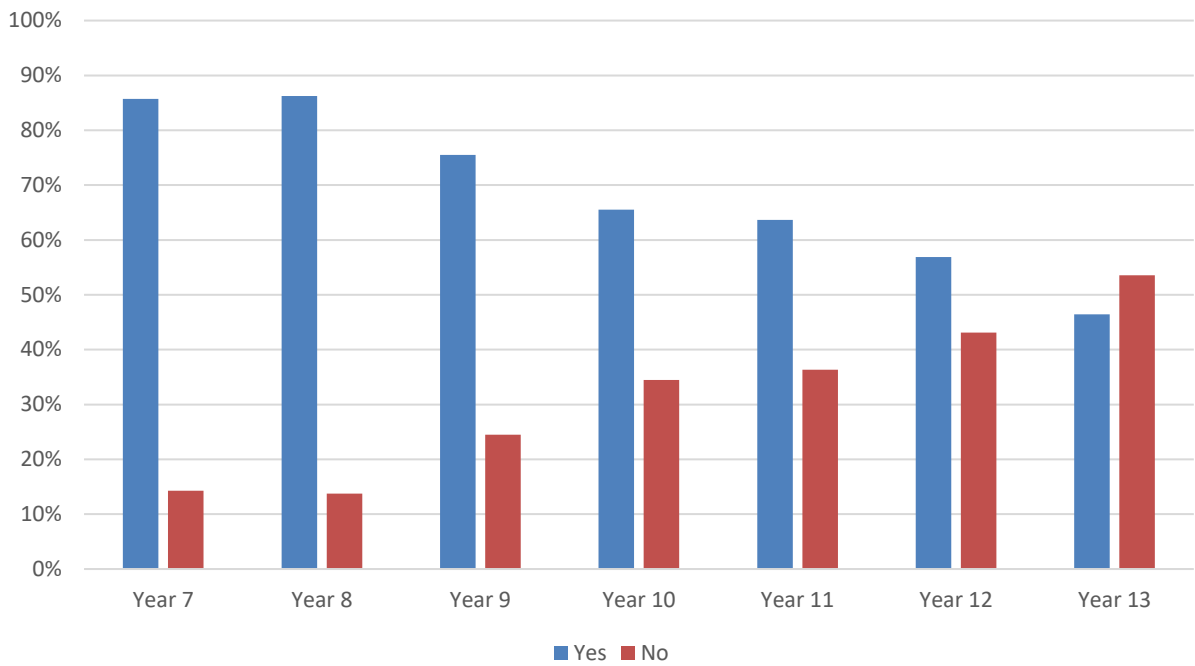
### Ability to Get a Break From the Screen



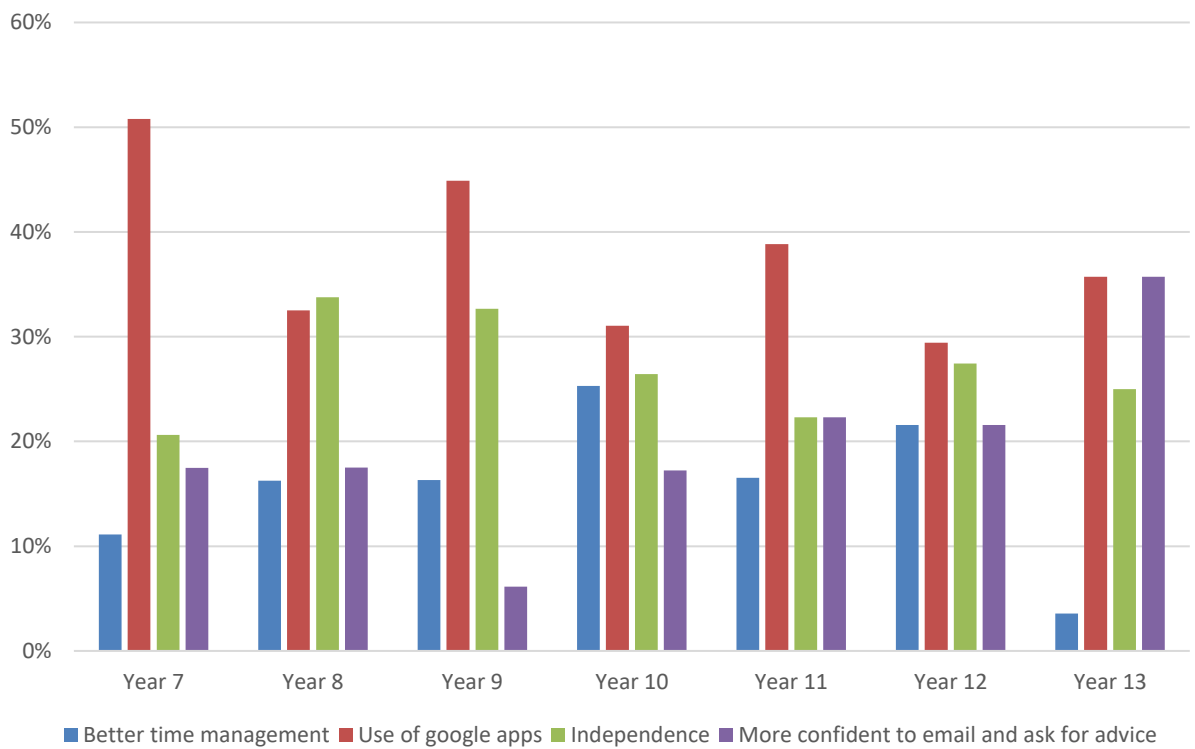
### How Students Like Their Learning Checked



### Participation in an Online Tutor Session



### Skills Learned During Lockdown





#NCW2021  National Careers Week 2021

THE PARENTS' GUIDE TO

National Careers Week

NCW

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CAREERS

FOR NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK



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## School Lunchbags

# Easter Appeal



**We thank you  
for donations of  
these items by  
Sun 21st March**



**FRUIT  
HOT DOGS  
MEATBALLS**

**BOXES OF CREME EGGS  
PACKETS OF MINI EGGS**

**RICE PUDDING  
SWEETCORN  
SPAGHETTI HOOPS**

**PLEASE NO LARGER/BOXED EGGS!**

**Thank you for your support!**

Feb '21