

Teaching and Learning Update

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

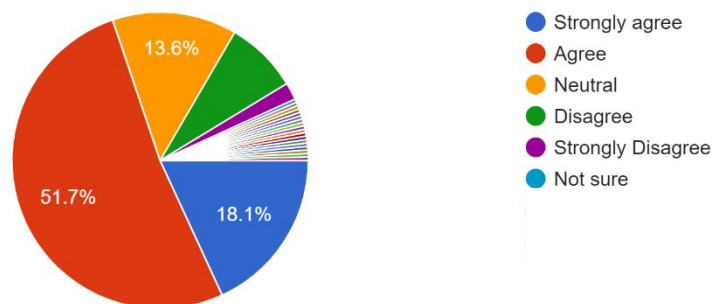
I hope that your sons and daughters have had a good week of homeschooling and are managing to persevere and stay motivated in these strange times. I hope, too, that you are all getting to grips with the Google Classroom, as we are as teachers, and are managing to upload completed work for teachers to view.

Many thanks to all of you who took the time to provide us with some feedback on how you are finding the homeschooling experience. We received 267 responses and it has been invaluable to hear about your experiences on 'the other side' of the work we are setting. It was great to hear about how well lots of our students are getting on and to receive the many messages of thanks to our teaching staff who have adapted their practice to provide the best possible experience to our students during the school closure. However, it was also illuminating to hear of some of the teething problems and difficulties some of our students are having whilst learning from home, and to hear some of your thoughts about how we can adapt our practice to improve the experience of our students further.

Please see below some of the headline responses, along with our response to this aspect of home learning.

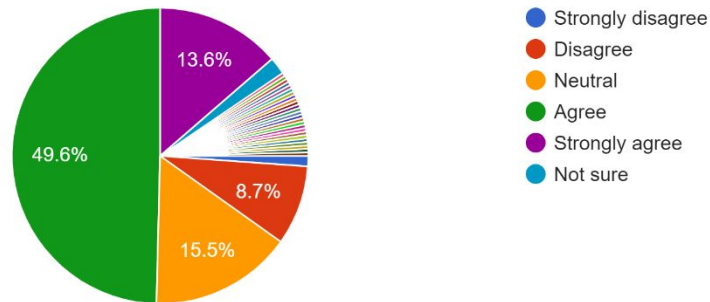
My son/daughter is engaging effectively with learning at home.

265 responses



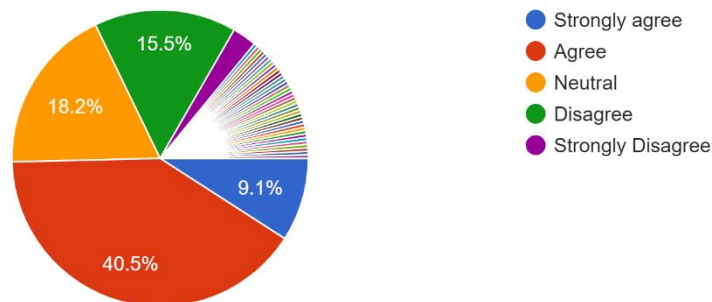
We were really pleased to hear that 69.8% of the respondents' children were engaging effectively with home schooling. This is particularly pleasing when put against national figures, researched by the Sutton Trust, who estimate that just one third of students are engaging with home schooling nationally. If you do not feel that your son or daughter is engaging effectively with the work being set, please do not hesitate to contact the school using the Headmaster's email address (headmaster@beechencliff.org.uk) and seek support.

The process of setting work online has been effective since schools were instructed to close.
264 responses



We were pleased to hear that 63.2% of respondents felt that the process of setting work online has been effective since we have been closed. It was great to hear that so many of you were pleased with the move to Google Classroom and the process of being able to easily submit completed work online. There were some concerns raised about the use of both Show My Homework and Google Classroom to set work, which we have taken on board. We will continue to publish work on both platforms, as it is important that parents are still able to view the work being set for their children, however we will ensure that the work set is consistent between the two platforms and that resources are easily accessible for students via the Google Classroom.

I am pleased with the level of support my son/daughter has received from his/her teachers through Show My Homework, Google Classroom, Email etc.
264 responses

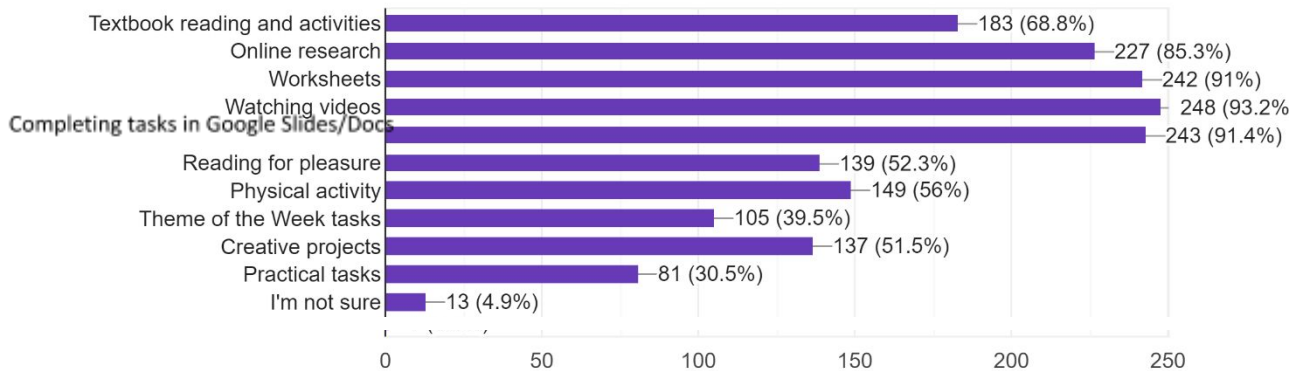


50% of respondents were pleased with the level of support their son or daughter has received from their teachers. We are glad that many of our students feel supported, but would this to be the case for all of our students. Whilst we cannot be in school supporting your child's learning, as we would prefer to be, at the moment, we are still here to support their learning. We encourage your child to use the comment function on the Google Classroom to contact their teacher and ask of help when they need it. Please also encourage your son or daughter to regularly check their school email accounts, as many teachers are using this form of communication to acknowledge receipt of student work. A reminder that you can access school email accounts view the RM Unify page:

<https://beechencliffschool.rmunify.com/>

What kinds of activities has your child been set to complete? Please tick all that apply.

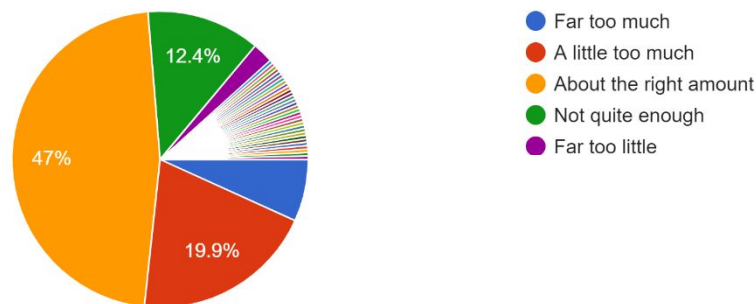
266 responses



It was great to see that our students are continuing to receive a varied, engaging diet during this period of home schooling. We are trying to keep the work we are setting as engaging as possible, whilst also bearing in mind the limitation some families have with technology. We will continue to ensure that the work we are setting involves some work that can be completed offline, as we are aware that not all students have limitless access to laptops, computers or indeed the internet. We will also continue to set work at the start of the week so that students who are working around siblings or parents working from home can access their school work whenever they are able to.

How would you judge the amount of work your child has been set?

266 responses

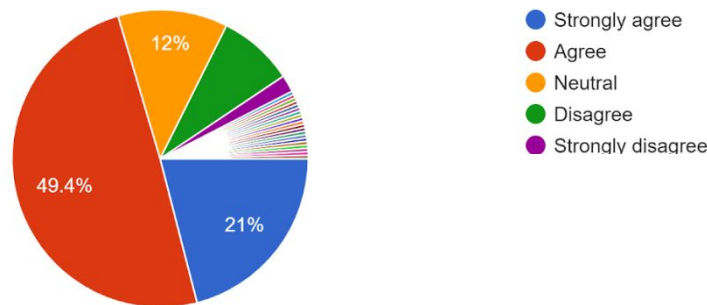


We were pleased to see that 47% of respondents felt that the amount of work their child is being set is about right. Taken together with those who felt it was just a little too much or not quite enough, 79.3% of respondents felt that the work being set was more in less in the right ball park. Given the variety of our students and the fact that students work at different paces, it would seem that the amount of work being set is catering for the majority of our students. Where you feel that this is not the case for your child, you may want to consider one of the following approaches:

- Encouraging your son/daughter to follow their normal school timetable, ‘pausing’ the tasks they are working on when they get to the end of a one hour slot
- Where your child is finding that far too much work is being set, you may want to encourage them to prioritise their core subjects (English, Maths and Science), then tackle their other subjects with the time they have left that week
- Where your child is finding there is far too little work being set, you may want to encourage them to complete the extension tasks being set by their teachers, as well as accessing other online education resources such as BBC Bitesize Daily: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons> and the Oak National Academy: <https://www.thenational.academy/>
- You could contact your son/daughter’s tutor or Head of House to discuss a way forward for your child, or you could contact the new national helpline for parents who are home schooling: <https://www.starline.org.uk/starline/> 0330 313 9162.

My son/daughter is coping well given the current circumstances.

267 responses



We were so pleased to hear that 70.4% of respondents felt their son or daughter was coping well at the moment. Where this is not the case, we hope that contact from your child’s tutor via email last week and via a phone call next week will help with your children’s motivation and well being.

Thank you to all of you who left some further comments at the end of the survey. There was some really useful feedback and some key themes which came up:

- **The use of Google Classroom and Show My Homework** – We will continue to post work on both platforms so that parents are able to see work set on Show My Homework, and so that students are easily able to submit their work on Google Classroom. We are working hard to ensure consistency between the two platforms. Where this is not the case, please contact your son or daughter’s class teacher for clarification. This can be done either by the comment function on Show My Homework, or by emailing the Headmaster’s email address and asking for your email to be forwarded to the named member of staff
- **The amount of work being set** – There was a very varied response here, demonstrating the variety of students we are catering for. Please see my comments above in response to this question in the survey for further guidance if you feel your son/daughter has too much or too little work to do
- **How tasks are set**- Our teachers are working very hard to convert their lessons into material that is appropriate for online learning, so that our students can continue with their

education as best as possible while the school is closed. We hope that the accessibility of tasks set has improved as teachers have received feedback and have gotten to grips with Google Classroom themselves. Where you feel this is still not the case, please encourage your son or daughter to ask their class teacher for further clarification and/or help with the task set

- **Feedback-** Some parents were concerned about the level of feedback their children were receiving from their teachers. Please rest-assured that all students will be receiving specific and individualised teacher feedback on a piece of assessed work before the end of term. Students in years 10 and 12 will receive at least two pieces of feedback. In addition to this, many teachers are using the comment function and school email addresses to acknowledge and praise the students for their efforts, as well as posting whole-class encouragement on the Google Classroom, so please remind our son or daughter to check these places for any communications their teachers may have sent
- **Contact from tutors-** All of our tutors will be making contact with their tutees in years 7-10 and Lower Sixth next week to check in with them and see how they are getting on

Many thanks once again for all of your feedback. We will endeavour, as always, to improve the education we are providing for our students as much as possible.

I hope you enjoy the VE Day celebrations as much as possible.

All the best,

Ms S Sullivan