



The Helena Romanes School and Sixth Form Centre

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I wrote to you on 28th March 2017 in regard to the school trialling an online homework planner called the 'school smart portal'. The feedback provided has been extremely useful in developing our strategy to improve communication between parents and the school. There were however some usability issues, not least the issue that parents only had an email address to log into the portal and no secure password. As the developer could not overcome this problem, we had to opt for an alternative supplier.

We have chosen to use two systems that sync with one another to provide you with a single all-purpose communication tool. These tools address all of the concerns that were raised during the consultation process.

The first system is called 'Groupcall Xpressions' and can be downloaded as an app on smartphones and tablet devices. This will provide you with daily updated information on:

- Timetables (including examination timetables)
- Attendance
- Behaviour points
- Credit /achievement points
- Assessment information (please note this is still under development and the information may have some inaccuracies - as soon as this is fully functional, we will let you know).

This App can be downloaded now, free of charge. The App will request you to provide your email address that you have registered with the school and you can then set a secure password. This will allow access to your child's personal profile. Turning the push notification on will allow you to receive these alerts.

The second system is called 'Show My Homework' and will be our online homework platform from September 2017. Parents and students can access 'Show My Homework' from within 'Groupcall Xpressions', or download the separate 'Show My Homework' app. Alternatively you can simply login via <https://www.showmyhomework.co.uk/>. The school will provide you with your login details later in the academic year and all students will have login information provided to start the new academic year in September 2017. Paper planners will be obsolete from September 2017 and all homework will be set by teachers using 'Show My Homework'.

We hope that you will find both systems useful in further developing communication between the school, parents and students and would encourage you to download the 'Groupcall Xpressions' app at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

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