



Information bulletin for parents/carers and students

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Key school contact information

General enquiries <i>As usual, our aim is to reply to all enquiries within 48 hours of receipt</i>	enquiries@hrs.education 01371 872560
Absence <i>Please report if your son/daughter is unable to work at home due to illness</i>	studentabsence@hrs.education 01371 878654
IT support	helpdesk@hrs.education
SENCO	senco@hrs.education
Child protection/safeguarding concerns	worrybox@hrs.education



Latest news and information

General information	<p>Dear Parent/Carer,</p> <p>I hope that you and your families have managed to navigate this very difficult week as smoothly as possible.</p> <p>At the start of this new term, I am delighted to welcome three new staff to our team at HRS:</p> <p>Miss Colton: Deputy Headteacher Mr Harvey: Teacher of PE Mr Johnson : Teacher of Science</p> <p>It has certainly been a week of uncertainty in the world of education. However, I have written to you on a number occasions already this week providing various updates. For today, I will simply say thank you for your kind words and support during this period of ever changing horizons!</p> <p>As well as the information contained in today's bulletin, Mr Cooke will also be writing to you with a further update about remote learning.</p> <p>I hope you have a good weekend.</p> <p>Daniel Gee Headteacher</p>
	<p>Exams Update</p> <p>This week the government has announced that GCSE and A level exams will not be going ahead as planned.</p> <p>Gavin Williamson (Education Secretary) stated:</p> <p><i>With GCSEs and A Levels not going ahead as planned, the exams regulator Ofqual will launch a consultation – alongside the department – on the options for alternatives to the exams to ensure every young person gets a fair grade for their work, with the expectation that teacher assessment will be used.</i></p> <p>The content of the announcement also went on to say:</p> <p><i>The Education Secretary expects Ofqual to consider a teacher assessed system as a replacement for GCSEs, AS and A levels. A consultation will be launched next week and conclude swiftly to give certainty to schools, colleges and students, while also giving them the opportunity to have their say.</i></p>



However, in the same statement schools were told:

Assessments in some vocational qualifications can still take place in January, where schools and colleges judge it right to do so. The department is working with Ofqual on arrangements for those who do not take their January assessments, as well as for vocational and technical assessments scheduled for February onwards.

We have taken the decision to continue to run the January exams for vocational subjects, as students have dedicated their time to preparing for these exams, and we are able to ensure that social distancing is strictly maintained whilst these are carried out. I have written to the students affected by this directly with more information.

As soon as we receive more detailed guidance from the government we will pass this on to you, to give you and your children the clarity they deserve at a very difficult time.

In the meantime I would urge all students affected to continue to work hard on their studies. We will be planning to carry out some assessments on their return to school, in order to support the teacher assessed grade process.

Neal Foster
Deputy Headteacher

2021-22 Term Dates

Following a discussion with the Governing Body, we are proposing to change the structure of the school calendar, with effect from September 2021. It is proposed that HRS moves into alignment with other Essex secondary schools and reverts to a one week half-term holiday in the autumn term.

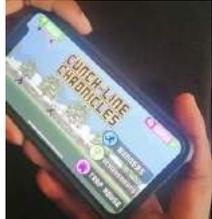
The change is being proposed in order to support students' learning and progress. Our current arrangements remove curriculum time at a crucial point each year for students in Years 11 and 13. They also reduce the learning momentum of all our students at a crucial time in the school year.

The proposal will not result in any changes to the number of days allocated to teaching, staff training or holidays. It will simply mean that training days and holidays will be allocated more evenly throughout the year.

If you have any feedback on this proposal, please email enquiries@hrs.education



	<p>We hope to confirm term dates by the end of next week.</p> <hr/> <p>World Challenge Expedition - Summer 2022 It may seem an odd time to be launching a school trip, but as this trip is quite extraordinary, and is not scheduled to leave until the end of July 2022, the time is now right for it to be publicised.</p> <p>This expedition is for students who are currently in Year 10 or 12 only, and is an amazing opportunity to experience the sights and culture of both Malaysia and Borneo for 3 weeks. It entails trekking through jungles, helping out local communities, and experiencing all that the cultures of these countries have to offer. You will even have the opportunity to see the world famous orangutans.</p> <p>HRS has worked with World Challenge for many years now, and the students who have experienced these expeditions have all thoroughly enjoyed them, and grown from the experience it offers.</p> <p>There is a video presentation from Emma Bruggenworth (World Challenge rep) here.</p> <p>A web page with more information can be found here.</p> <p>Emails with more information and details on how to sign up will be sent separately.</p> <p>Virtual Parents Information Evening The virtual parents information evening which is going to be held on Thursday 14th January at 6:30pm will be an opportunity for you and your parents or guardians to find out more information about the trip, and ask any questions you may have. To sign up to this event here are some instructions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Head over to the landing page at https://ourworldchallenge.com/eb7l2wj/2. Scroll down the page and on the right hand side you will see a video from Emma3. Click on the button below the video, called Register for Zoom Presentation and here you will be able to sign up to the evening <p>Mr Foster and Mr Hore World Challenge School Leaders</p> <hr/> <p>Welfare and Learning Check Each Monday during lockdown the school will send an email survey to check the welfare and learning of your child, we would appreciate your prompt response to this survey.</p>
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	<p>We will require parents to submit a response for each child individually. In order for our systems to identify the correct names, please do not include siblings on the same survey.</p> <p>Steve Emberton Assistant Headteacher</p>
	<p>Safeguarding Online safety information for parents and students can be found here:</p> <p>Exploitation Alert: Cunch Line Chronicles App</p>  <p>The Cunch Line Chronicles App is advertised as <i>'a light-hearted, satirical take on the darker side of urban UK culture'</i>.</p> <p>In reality, this app is an exploitation risk for young and vulnerable people as it appears to have an in-chat facility which could enable grooming and recruitment to real life County Lines gangs.</p> <p>The National Crime Agency, National Policing Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme and the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre are aware of this app. The agencies are investigating the action that can be taken to protect young and vulnerable people from the risk of being exploited via this app.</p> <p>Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group</p>
	<p>Grants to help residents self-isolate Essex County Council has secured funding to provide support to residents who are asked to self-isolate:</p> <p>https://www.essex.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment</p>
	<p>Learning Zone No books at home? Why not try one of these titles from Smashwords which are available in various different formats, including Kindle, pdf, epub and even txt.</p> <p>City of the Falling Sky - Fantasy/Sci-Fi/Adventure - https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/82316</p> <p>First Job - Superhero Adventure - https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/1017675</p>



	<p>Matt Archer Monster Hunter - Adventure - https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/216195</p> <p>If you read one or all of the books send a review to sbird@hrs.education, I look forward to hearing from you.</p> <p>Happy New Year & Happy Reading!</p> <p>Mrs S Bird Learning Zone Manager</p>
Year 7	<p>Hello Year 7,</p> <p>I would just like to take this opportunity to say well done! I have been very impressed with the way students have adapted incredibly well to yet another new way of working. The resilience you have all shown has been tremendous, so congratulations and keep it up!</p> <p>I have a couple of tips that may help to reduce some of the stress of completing all the work you are set on time.</p> <p>1) In the Satchel One website the default view for home work is as a list. However, if you are viewing the website rather than in the app on your phone, there is an option to view work in calendar view. I find the calendar view a lot easier to understand and organise work and may help you to feel a little less overwhelmed by volume of work when viewing as one long list.</p> <p>2) We understand that not everyone will be able to complete every lesson during the hour slot allocated on your normal timetable. Whilst it is good to try and stick to that timetable as much as possible, please remember you have 48 hours from when the work was set to hand it in, so if you need to work on it at another time that is fine.</p> <p>Well done on a great start to our virtual learning; keep it up and stay safe!</p> <p>Mr C Wilkins Head of Year 7</p>
Year 7 Flu Spray	<p>The Uttlesford and Braintree Immunisation Team is still offering the flu spray to any Year 7 students who have not yet had it. If you would like your child to receive it, please contact 0300 790 0597 to book an appointment.</p>
Year 8	<p>Happy New Year to you and your families.</p> <p>I hope that you have all been able to enjoy the break despite the restrictions on the usual festivities.</p>



	<p>Welcome back to school, albeit virtually for the moment. We are in a much stronger position going into home learning this time, as you all know how it feels and what to expect. You know how to submit your work and how to structure your day, you know the importance of not getting behind, and also the importance of having down time and time to relax. I know how proud of you we will be at the end of each week when we review the work submitted!</p> <p>Please spend some time thinking of how you can relax without the need to rely on electronics. It's certainly more difficult in this chilly weather than it was in the summer, but it's vital for your physical and mental health that you get outside every day. Wrap up warm and enjoy a walk or spend some time on your trampoline or scooter etc.</p> <p>If you are struggling emotionally, socially, or with your work, please contact myself or your tutor for support, don't suffer in silence. We are here to help you.</p> <p>Many Thanks for all your efforts this week.</p> <p>Mrs L Cook Head of Year 8</p>
Year 9	<p>Good Afternoon Year 9,</p> <p>It has been a very strange start to 2021 but it has been a very positive one regarding your engagement with your online learning.</p> <p>It is a challenging time and I know many of you find comfort in the routine your school work brings. If you have not yet organised your work space I would encourage you to do this. Make sure it is an environment which avoids other distractions, and allows you to focus on your work. If you need any support please remember to contact your teachers during lesson time, and email me or your tutors with any concerns you have.</p> <p>Remember to take a break from your screen during the day and move around. In school you have the walk between lessons to help re-energise you and prepare you for your next lesson. Find your own ways to switch off from one lesson before you engage in the next, it will really help your focus.</p> <p>Remember to be kind to yourself and others, try to share a smile and support each other.</p> <p>Take care,</p> <p>Ms Foulger Head of Year 9</p>



Year 10	<p>I hope you have all settled into another period of lockdown and are safe and keeping well.</p> <p>Please ensure you keep up to date with your daily work, and make sure you only spend an hour on each subject as you would in a lesson. It is not expected that you would always finish the work at the end of every lesson, as we always spend at least two or three hours on going through work, modelling and learning, and then doing the worksheets. So send in what you have completed after the hour and do not worry if it is not totally completed.</p> <p>Please also read your emails daily. I appreciate how overwhelming it can be, but if you are organised and work methodically by regularly checking and keeping up to date with what needs to be done, you will find everything much easier to manage.</p> <p>This is a difficult time for you all, but just remember this experience is a chance to build on your resilience skills, and learn to overcome adversity. This is an immensely important skill to master, and will benefit you in the future for all the challenges you will face in everyday life.</p> <p>We can do this, keep going and never give up. Email me if you have any worries or problems.</p> <p>Ms W Gordon Head of Year 10</p>
Year 11	<p>Please follow the link below to Mr Wilcox' message to Year 11 students.</p> <p>https://youtu.be/X4NqAJQFln8</p>
Sixth Form	<p>Here we are at the end of the first week of remote learning in 2021.</p> <p>I would just like to reiterate the key message from my email to you all - that we are in this together, and as a united sixth form community we will get through this together.</p> <p>I have set up a whole year group google classroom for Year 12 and year 13 to make it easy to communicate all key information to students, and also as a morale boosting platform as appropriate.</p> <p>Lessons are about to become more exciting with the introduction of some "live zoom lessons" to keep us all in touch and engaged. This is a new addition to the previous diet of videos or, in some cases, communicating live during lesson time through the google documents platform.</p> <p>I am absolutely delighted to tell you that we have an addition to the Sixth Form Leadership Team. Mr Hore, who was new to the school in September, but comes with absolutely loads of great ideas and</p>



experience to help us make the sixth form a better place, has been appointed as Assistant Head of Sixth Form. Sport and IT are his specialisms so exciting times await!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact the sixth form team if there is anything you need help with, to seek clarification or just to touch base with us.

Contact details: dwright@hrs.education, rhore@hrs.education, pbarry@hrs.education

Kind regards,

Mrs D Wright

Head of Sixth Form



Safeguarding during school closure

Worried about something?

Concerned about a friend?

We are continuing to monitor and support students during the school closures.

We are still here to help you.

Monday-Friday 8.30am-3.30pm



Miss Brammer
Child Protection Officer
Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Lbrammer@hrs.education
or
worrybox@hrs.education
Please use your school email

Mr Emberton
Assistant Head Teacher
Safeguarding Lead
semberton@hrs.education
or
worrybox@hrs.education
Please use your school email

Remote learning 'spotlight'



Mr Hore - Assistant Head of Sixth Form / Teacher ICT and Computing

I've been really impressed with how many of the students have engaged so quickly with working remotely and at such short notice! It is great to see so many of them throwing themselves into their learning as if they were actually in the classroom and trying to make the best of a tough situation. As a relatively new member of staff to the school, I am genuinely impressed with some of the proactive behaviours on show!

Well done all, keep it up!!!

#TeamHRS



Planning and supporting learning

What work should be undertaken by students?

- Students will be expected to undertake learning activities every day
- They should complete learning activities in line with their normal timetable
- For example, students will be expected to undertake English tasks between 9.05 and 10.05 on a Monday if they normally have English during period 1 on a Monday
- Teachers will provide learning activities for each class that they teach in line with the student's timetable
- Learning activities will be posted on *Show My Homework (SMHW)*
- If students have queries relating to their work, they can email their teachers who will get back to them as soon as they are able.

Useful websites

A document containing useful websites for a variety of subjects can be found [here](#)

Using ShowMyHomework

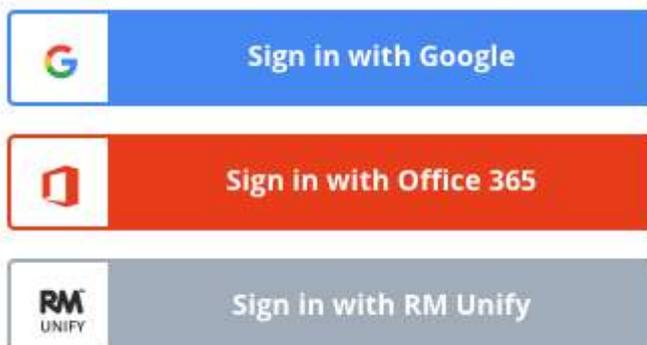
A Student guide to using Show my homework:

All Student SMHW accounts have a default login of google sign in. This will be the same as your school email address and password.

E.g. initialsurname14@hrs.education and your password.

Please make sure to click the relevant option and enter your email and password. You will find these options on both the website and our mobile apps:

The Helena Romanes School use the 'sign in with Google' option.





A Parents' guide to using Show my homework:

To use SMHW, you will need your pin code issued by the School, this has been recently re-issued to you.

The two main ways to use Show My Homework (SMHW) are through a browser like Internet Explorer or Google Chrome alternatively you can download an app to use on your mobile device. Apps exist for iOS or Android devices.

The following instructions are for using SMHW with a browser:

Log in to your account

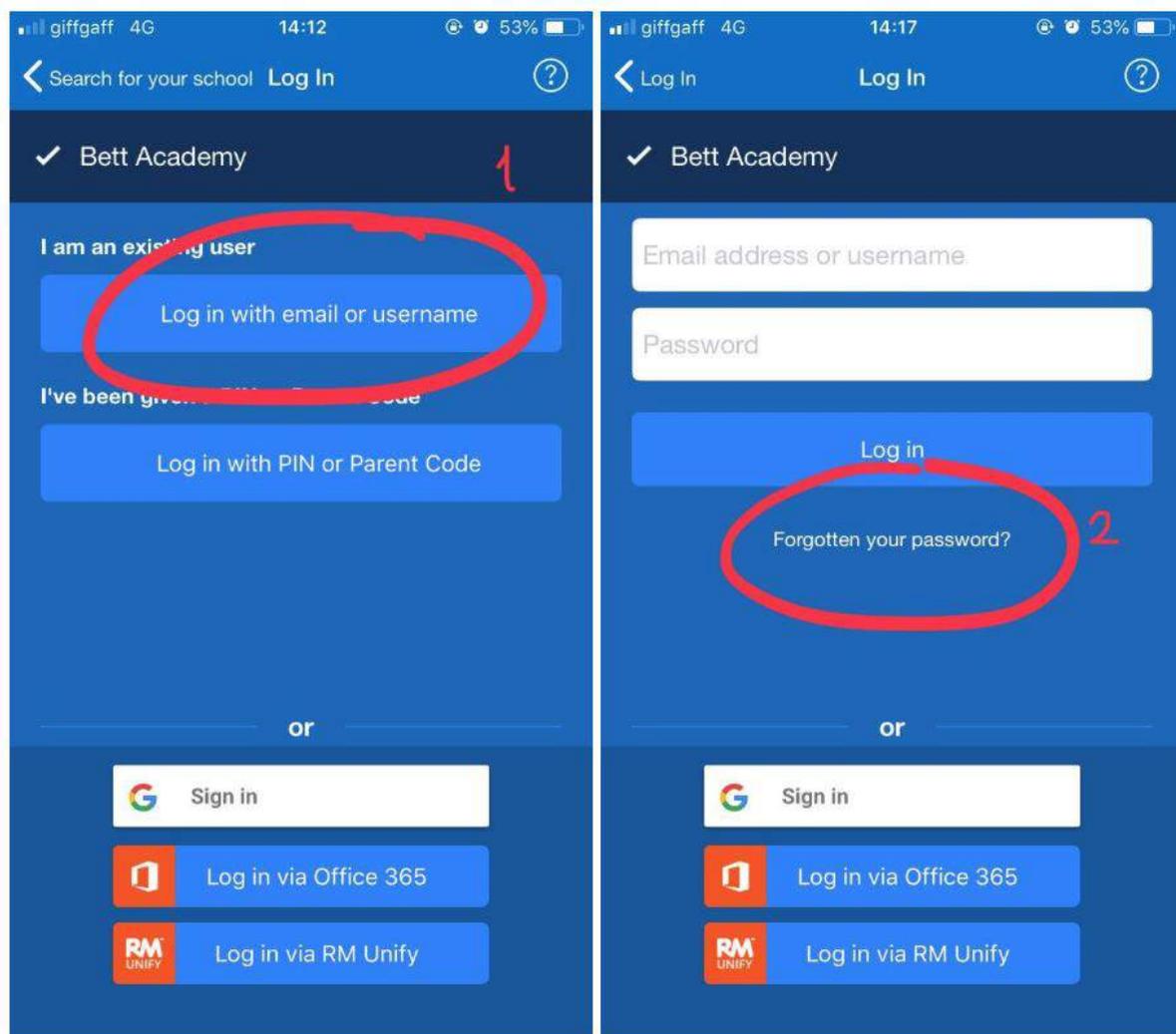
Once you have created your account using your parent code, you can access your account on any device using your email address and password.

1. Go to our [login page](#) or open our mobile app
2. Enter your child's school (search by postcode)
3. Type your email address and password
4. Log in

Forgot password?

To reset your password, click on "*Forgot password?*" on the [login page](#) or on the mobile app.

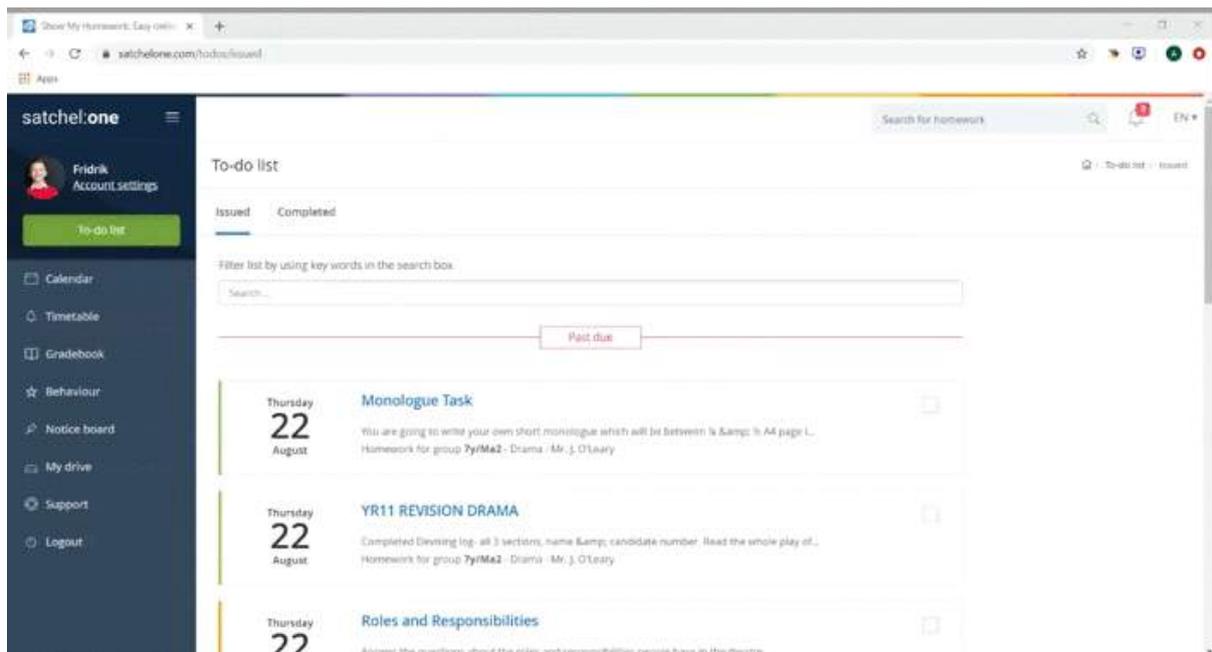
Type in your email and password reset email will be sent to you. Follow the instructions we sent you to create a new password.



Top tip: If you do not see the password reset email in your inbox, you may want to check your junk or spam folder.

Sign up as a parent

To create your account, you will need a parent code. This will be provided by the school, but if your child already has access to their account, they can get the code for you!



You can use the same code to create up to 5 parent/guardian accounts, so feel free to share this with those that need access to your child's homework details.

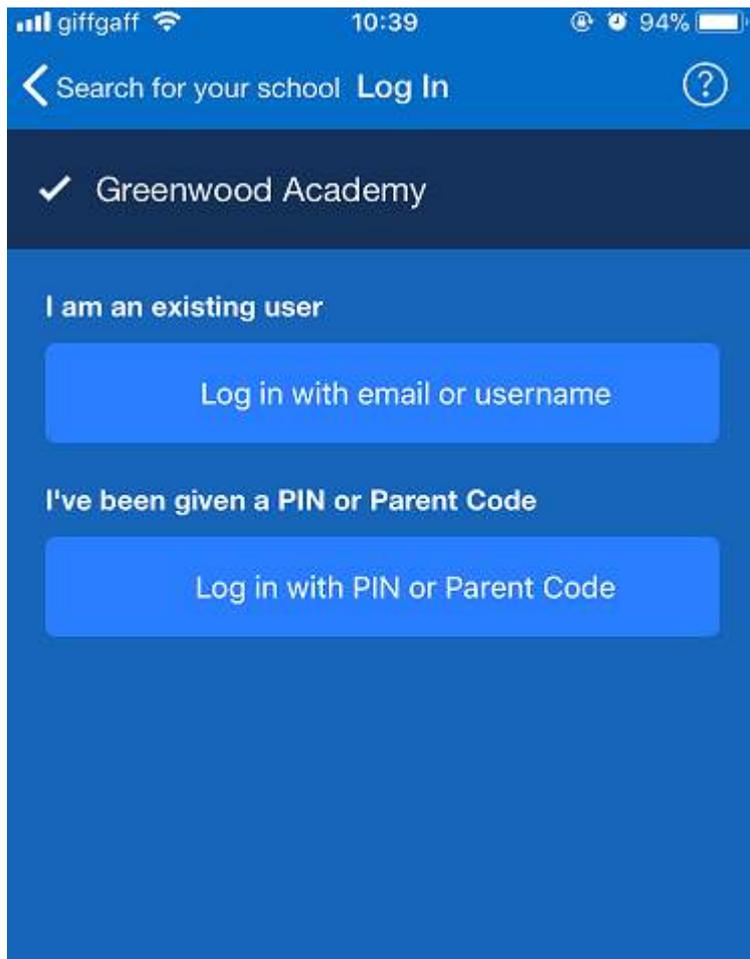
Once you have your code, follow these instructions to create your account:

On the website:

1. Visit our [sign up page](#)
2. Search for your child's school (by name or postcode)
3. Enter your parent code below
4. Tick "I am not a robot" and complete any security tasks if necessary.
5. Click Submit
6. Follow the instructions to create your account.

On a mobile device

Using a smartphone or tablet? Download our [iOS](#) (Apple) or [Android](#) app.



1. Search for your child's school (by name or postcode)
2. Tap Log in with a PIN or parent code
3. Enter your parent code
4. Follow the instructions on the screen to create your account.

Your account is now set up! **You will no longer need your parent code.** Moving forward you can access your account using your email and password combination.

Parent code expired?

If you already have an account, you no longer need a parent code, simply reset your password.

If your code expired or got lost before you managed to create an account:

- you can request the parent code from the school or
- ask your child to log in to their account on a web browser and go to Account Settings

Assisting with student logins



Has your child forgotten their login details? As a parent, you should be able to assist.

Open the Satchel One app and from the Menu go to *Settings > Student management*. You will be able to see the student PIN which they can use to reset their details.

The PIN is also visible on the website, right on your dashboard.

If your child does not have a PIN, please contact the school directly. Learn more about [Logging in as a student](#).



Using Groupcall Xpressions App

Install the App on your mobile phone. This is available for both iOS and Android



Open the app and register with the email and phone contact details that you supplied to us and are registered on the school database.

The app will then provide you with the following information:

- Timetable
- Attendance
- Behaviour overview
- Achievement overview