



Information bulletin for parents/carers and students

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Key school contact information

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| 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

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| General information | <p>Dear Parent/Carer,</p> <p>As we reach the end of a half term of remote learning, I want to say thank you for your support and encouragement. As we entered the half term, we did so with a commitment to develop further the remote learning offer that we provide. We have seen the introduction of live lessons, weekly praise and concern emails, and our first virtual Form Tutor consultation day over the last six weeks. The feedback from parents and students has been incredibly positive.</p> <p>Linked to this, I would like to publicly thank the team at HRS. The staff (both those working remotely and those who are onsite) have continued to go 'above and beyond' to support our students.</p> <p>We know that the first two weeks of next half term will continue in the same vein as this half term. Once we are provided with further information about the reopening of schools we will provide you with an update.</p> <p>Yours faithfully,</p> <p>Daniel Gee Headteacher</p> |
| | <p>English Literary Snowman Competition</p> <p>Thank you to everyone who entered our Literary Snowman Competition this week. Your snowy creations were absolutely fantastic!</p> <p>Our competition winner is Sophie O'Rorke, who created a marvellous representation of Paddington Bear.</p> <p>Well done Sophie!</p> <p>Miss E Iliffe Second in English</p> |



News from the Learning Zone

The Accelerated Reader programme we use with Year 7 and 8 students is available to access at home URL:

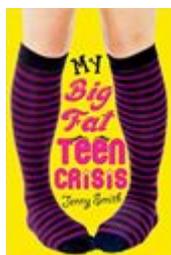
<https://ukhosted8.renlearn.co.uk/2237320>

Username: First part of student email address

Password: abc

Since the beginning of term Elliot Willis in Year 8 has read over 1,000,000 words and Molly Bennett in Year 7 has read over 500,000 words congratulations to Elliot and Molly.

This weeks book recommendations are:



Fans of Cathy Cassidy will love this! When Sam's best friend is whisked off to the Outer Hebrides by her parents, Sam suddenly finds herself without any friends. Sam doesn't seem to fit in anywhere any more. She's not "cool", she's not "sophisticated" and the gorgeous new boy at school certainly won't be interested unless she has an image overhaul - fast! But as Sam experiments with new clothes and new friends, she finds herself more lost than ever! Who does she really want to be - and will she realise before it's

too late?



Tough enough? Smart enough? Max will require all his skills just to stay alive as a Special Forces Cadet...

A top-secret government programme needs a crack team of undercover military operators. They must have awesome levels of determination, endurance and fitness. They must be able to think on their feet. The recruits undergo the most rigorous and testing selection process the modern military can devise. And in order to operate in circumstances where adult forces would be compromised, the recruits must be under sixteen.

Only a few are tough enough and smart enough to make it . . . And once out in the field, they will require all their skills just to stay alive.

Which is what happens when Max Silver, Abby Asher, Lukas Channing and Sami Hakim are sent into an armed siege in an inner-city school . . .



Mr Bousfield has recommended *Asking for a Friend* by Kate Mallinder and has kindly lent me his copy, I am looking forward to reading it over half term. If you read a book over the half term holiday that you really enjoy please let me know at sbird@hrs.education.

Happy Holiday Reading!
Mrs S Bird
Learning Zone Manager

REMINDER - Year 11 Leavers Hoodies

This year we are again offering our Year 11 students the opportunity to purchase a hoodie to celebrate their time at Helena Romanes.

Hoodies are available in a choice of colours and are designed with the number '21' on the back containing all Year 11 students' names (First Name & Last Initial only). Hoodies can also be personalised with a name, nickname or initials which will be printed on the arm of the hoodie. Information regarding colour choices and sizes are attached.

The cost of a hoodie is £18.00 which is payable by ParentPay.

If you wish to place an order, please pay via ParentPay and complete the attached order form by clicking on this link:

<https://forms.gle/v8mbMdmWhG23zaLr9>

Please note that orders and payments must be received by 21st February 2021 at the latest. We are unable to process orders after this date at the discounted cost of £18.00

If you have any questions regarding hoodies please contact
admins@hrs.education

Mr N Wilcox
Head of Year 11



Virtual work experience placements, individual opportunities for students to join them in the UK, and Duke of Edinburgh placement options and ideas

Operation Wallacea has some great opportunities for students in Years 11, 12 and 13.

Online work experience placements - Medical, Science & Geography, Project Management, Business & Marketing and Photography. Many students are struggling to obtain relevant and useful work experience in the wake of Covid-19. Operation Wallacea, who run overseas biodiversity research projects, has a team of experienced researchers, designers, marketers and project managers. Due to the global travel restrictions these teams are not running their usual projects for the next few months and so there is an opportunity for them to provide support and tuition for a limited number of secondary school work placements.

Please see below details on their talks to find out more. Visit their website for details on dates and how to book:

<https://www.opwall.com/schools/educational-benefits/work-experience/>

UK based field course for individual students - perfect for UCAS applications, CV and experience building while also offering Duke of Edinburgh opportunities.



Given the closure of international travel in 2020 and that many residential and international trips have been postponed or cancelled in 2021, there will have been two years where biology, geography and environmental science students will not have been able to gain the field survey skills that their compatriots in previous years would have been able to access. Opwall has therefore put together some Spring and Summer wildlife training courses at the Knepp Estate in West Sussex – Britain’s premier rewilding site, that will give students who can’t travel overseas the opportunity to gain some field experience.

If you haven’t already heard of Knepp – it is a 3500 acre estate previously farmed for generations, but as yields became increasingly lower the owners took the difficult decision to rewild the land using very low intensity grazing. After 20 years the area is now an absolute hub of wildlife and many ecologists have reported that the benefit to wildlife by letting nature go in this way has been greater than any other site, including nature reserves, in Britain.

Please see their website for details on dates and how to book: (<https://www.opwall.com/uk-field-courses/>). Students over 16 years old and with parent/guardian permission can attend the course on their own or with friends. Any bookings are fully protected against cancellation because of changes in Covid travel restrictions.

If you would like further information please sign up for one of their talks:
Friday 12 February at 1pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3979687147565058317>

Wednesday 17 February at 4pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6143118112214352397>

Monday 22 February at 6pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1710031265067143950>

If students register but can't make the live meeting they will automatically be sent a recording. There will be a question and answer session at the end of the talk which is usually incredibly useful.



Supporting Parents Helpfinder (Young Minds)

Times are tough for many people right now. Parents find themselves pulled in many different directions and children may be struggling being in the house for so much longer than usual.

A mixture of concern about covid, work from home and children at home, along with a possible financial impact make for a stressful household.

Young Minds have created a useful 'Supporting Parents Helpfinder'. By answering six questions, parents can find out how to support their child's mental health during the pandemic (and beyond).

Find the help finder here:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder/>

Dear Parents,

Here is a national competition students may be interested in. It is called 'Stepping into the NHS' aimed at Year 7, 8 and 9 students.

There is a video link attached explaining what students need to do, if they would like to join in.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ENwM-RpvOU&feature=emb_logo

There are prizes and the deadline is 30th April.

I have posted information and resources on the Year 9 Google Classroom.

If you would like to know more or need me to fill out the 'teacher entry form', please email me at slill@hrs.education

Keep safe and all the best,
Mr S Lill
Teacher of Science



Changing Lives
Community Services

Supporting Families

PICK UP

Location 1
Changing Lives Community Hub
7-9 West Walk
CM20 1LR

Location 2
Foakes Hall
Foakes House
47 Stortford Road
Dunmow
Essex
CM6 1DG

Free

FOOD PACKAGES
FEB HALF TERM | Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February

BOOK A SLOT

This February Half Term don't let the lockdown get you down!

Active Essex Foundation want to ensure that you and your families can still get active, enjoy healthy nutritious meals and take part in lots of fun activities together.

Follow these steps to collect your Food Package:

1. Download the Bookfit App
2. Search Changing Lives Community Services
3. Request Pick Up Slot
4. We will approve
5. Search the calendar for your desired Pick Up Slot and book via the app

Contact us on team@changinglivescommunityservices.com or contact the Hub Line on 01279 427 791.

We also offer a delivery service for those that are isolating or unable to collect.

ActiveEssex | Essex County Council

CHANGINGLIVESCOMMUNITYSERVICES.COM

Year 7

Hello Year 7

Well..... we have made it to the end of a very strange half term which has been very challenging for students, parents and teachers alike but, nevertheless, we have made it!

You can all be very proud of the resilience and adaptability you have shown this term. The way you have settled into our new way of working has been excellent, so well done!

A massive pat on the back also goes to the parents who have had to juggle their own jobs and commitments with supporting children with



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| | <p>their virtual learning. I know first hand how difficult it can be to keep all the plates spinning, working from home, and supporting children with their learning - so a massive well done to parents as well.</p> <p>Hopefully half term can be a bit of a break, and a rest for you to take some time away from the computer screens, get outside, exercise and relax doing the things you enjoy.</p> <p>Use this week off to recharge your batteries, so that when we return for the final stretch of virtual learning before we hopefully return to school, we are fit and raring to go.</p> <p>Well done and enjoy the half term holiday!</p> <p>Mr C Wilkins Head of Year 7</p> |
| Year 8 | <p>Hello,</p> <p>Half term is here, I don't know about you but this term has flown by. We have had such a busy term with readjusting to learning from home, tutor meeting events, parents evenings, live lessons, sporting competitions, preparing for our options events and trying to keep in touch with family and friends. We don't know what next term will bring but at least we can be sure of lighter evenings and hopefully sunnier days.</p> <p>Our options event will be going live on the website after half term with the opportunity for you to watch videos from each subject on offer. These videos will explain to you what the different courses will include, and there's a video of me talking you through the process of making those choices. It would be a good idea to use half term to research any job aspirations you have, as this may impact on the choices you want to make.</p> <p>I have been so proud of the way you have adapted to home learning again this term. You deserve a rest over the next week, try not to spend too long online, I think we all need a break from the screen!</p> <p>Stay safe,</p> <p>Mrs L Cook Head of Year 8</p> |
| Year 9 | <p>Good Afternoon Year 9,</p> <p>Thank you all once again for your continued efforts and fabulous work this term.</p> <p>Even when we are in school this always seems to be a difficult time of</p> |



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| | <p>year. Dark mornings and dark evenings, rain, wind and cold. It is always such a relief to get to the half term. This year we need the break more than ever. We all must make sure we give our eyes and brains a break from the demands of online learning. It is really important you do not look at the bright screen of your laptop/ipad/chromebook for the week, and give yourself a proper break. Stretch out your necks and shoulders and make sure you do not spend six hours sitting still. Take the time to move around and get some fresh air. Hopefully we will be lucky with the weather, it looks like it will be bright and crisp. Perfect for a long walk.</p> <p>During your holiday don't forget there are people all around you who will be struggling with the loneliness of lockdown, maybe you could extend a hand of kindness in their direction, and offer a smile to brighten their day. You may want to take the time to call someone who you know has been alone. Be the best version of yourself and make someone happy.</p> <p>Please, if you need any support or help over half term holiday, don't forget to contact me or use worrybox@hrs.education.</p> <p>Take care and look after each other. Ms T Foulger Head of Year 9</p> |
| Year 10 | <p>Dear Year 10 students, parents and carers,</p> <p>I just wanted to say a massive congratulations for your efforts during this term of home learning, and thank you for your support, time and patience.</p> <p>It has certainly been a learning curve for myself. Having to use new technology and devices to be able to deliver live lessons from home. I even resorted to using my wardrobe as a whiteboard for modelling and providing examples during live maths lessons.</p> <p>I think you have all done incredibly well. You have shown resilience and determination to succeed, when it could have been easy just to give up and not bother. You have shown strength of character, and this will put you in good stead for the future.</p> <p>I hope you all enjoy a well deserved break, and that you manage to get out in the fresh air, relax and unwind.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing you all very soon. Ms W Gordon Head of Year 10</p> |
| Year 11 | <p>Dear All,</p> <p>A short video with all I want to say this week. The link is here.</p> |



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| | <p>Be sure to enter the photography competition - remember there is a leaver's hoodie up for grabs!</p> <p>Have a very safe and happy half term. Mr N Wilcox Head of Year 11</p> |
| | <p>Year 11 Sixth Form applicants,</p> <p>Please be reminded that the booking system for sixth form guidance discussions is now open for all students who have made an application to study with us from September 2021. These discussions take place between 25 February and 5 March 2021 respectively.</p> <p>Due to the current climate and uncertainty, we are still accepting late applications; please ensure you consult the sixth form prospectus for subject entry criteria prior to submitting your application.</p> <p>http://digital-prospectus.com/concept4/The-Helena-Romanes-School-Sixth-Form-Information-Booklet/</p> <p>Kind regards, Mrs D Wright Head of Sixth Form</p> |
| Sixth Form | <p>Dear All,</p> <p>Here we are with half term upon us. I am so proud of the resilience shown by the sixth formers of late, and wish everyone a safe and restful half term. Students should now make the most of this week to catch themselves up both physically and mentally, get out in the fresh air and just recharge their batteries.</p> <p>Kind regards, Mrs D Wright Head of Sixth Form</p> |

Remote learning 'spotlight'



Mr T James - Teacher of Maths / Raising Standards Leader

Hello,

For me it has been difficult to get back to working from home again. I have two young boys who always want to play Paw Patrol so I work upstairs in the study so that I can concentrate and have a 'quieter' environment.

Some of the work that has been produced by my maths classes has been amazing! We have some fantastic students at HRS, and it is clear that even under difficult conditions, students are up to the challenge of taking on the work they have been set.

As a keen sports enthusiast and runner, I see it as really important to do some exercise and get some fresh air; I tend to run every other day (except in the snow!) and this definitely boosts my morale. I recommend if you can get outside to get your heart rate going you will feel better!

I look forward to seeing you in school soon.

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

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

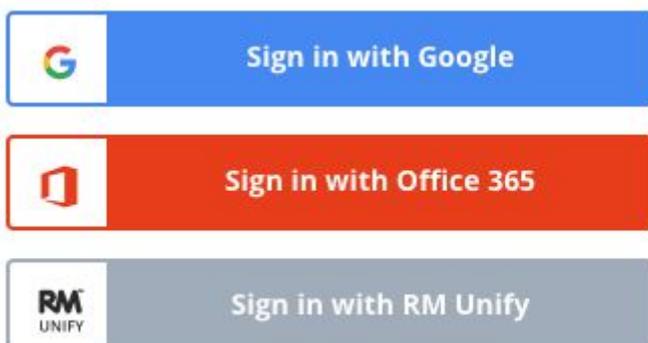
A Student guide to using Show my homework:

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

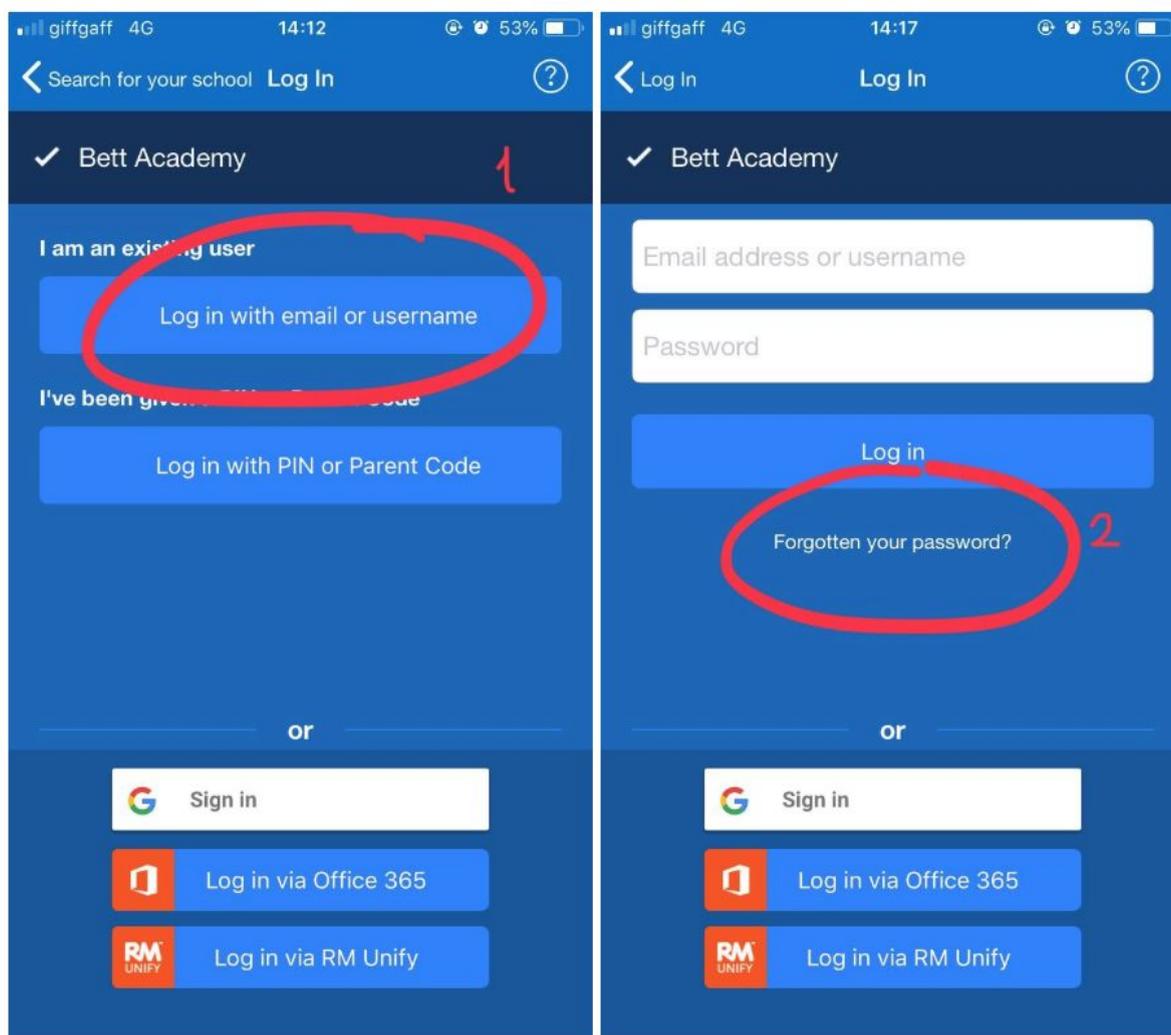
Once you have created your account using your parent code, you can access your account on any device using your email address and password.

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.

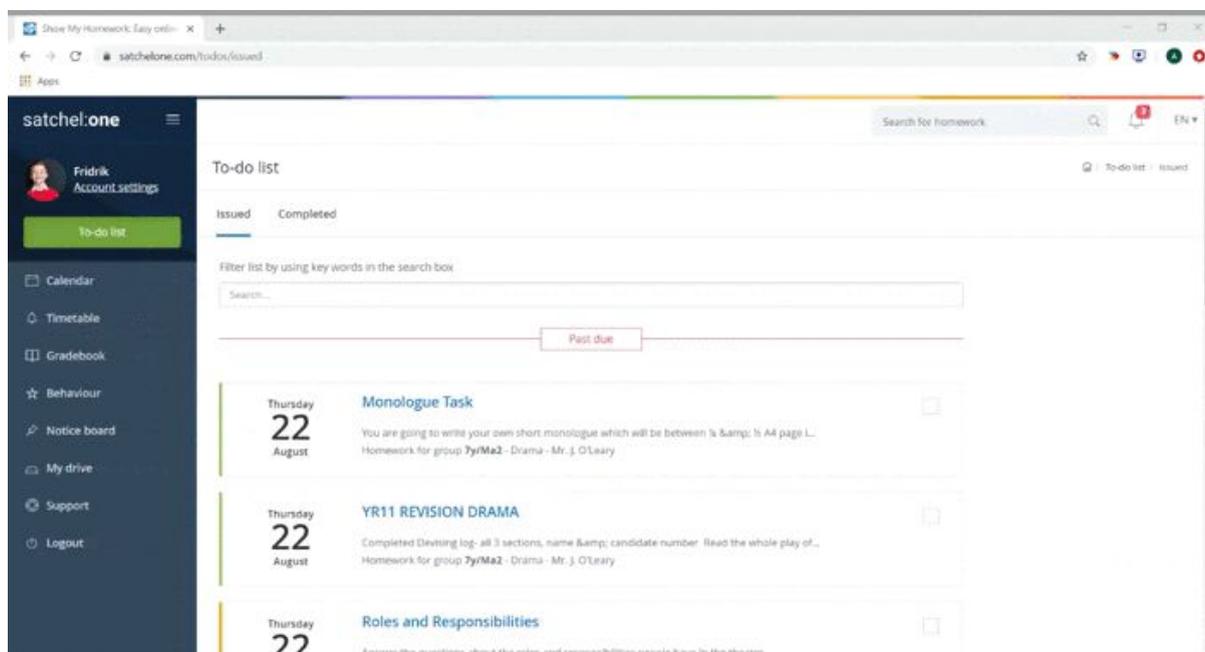
Type in your email and password reset email will be sent to you. Follow the instructions we sent you to create a new password.



 **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.

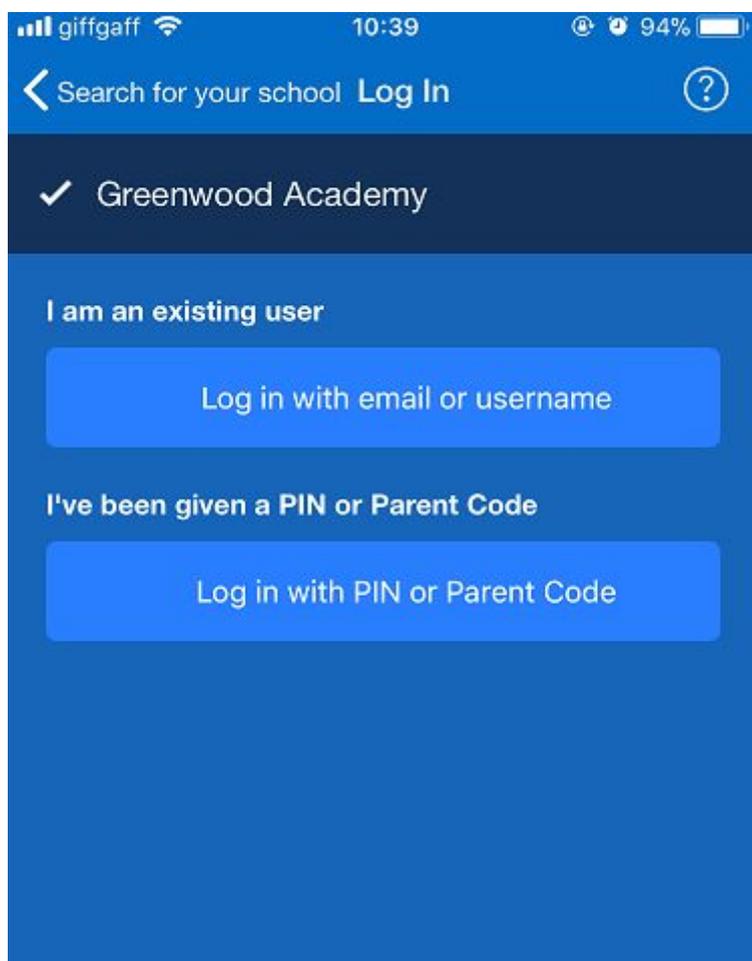
Once you have your code, follow these instructions to create your account:

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