



22 September 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

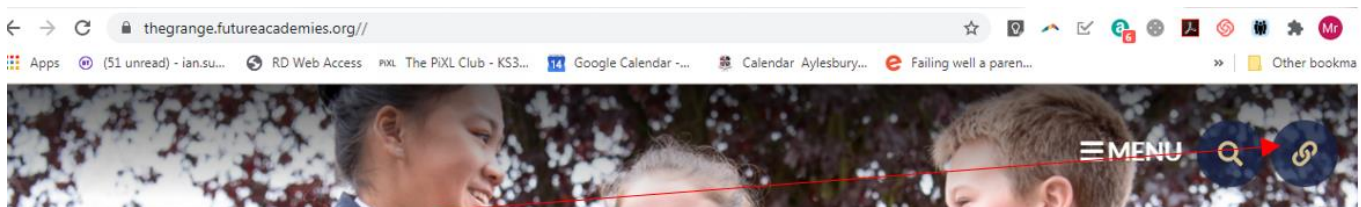
RE: Using our Google Apps

All students should now have access to our online learning tools. This letter would normally go to Year 7 parents as an introduction to the available tools, but during this time when online and remote learning may be needed I am sending this to all parents to ensure that every student can access what they need to continue their learning when in and out of school.

Logging in

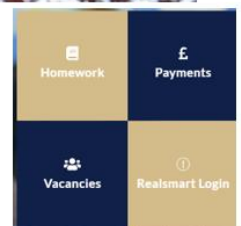
Our suite of online tools can be accessed through the school website at www.thegrange.futureacademies.org. Click on the chain logo and then “realsmart login” and the login details for each student is below.

The number at the start of the login is as follows: - Year 7 – 20, Year 8 – 19; Year 9 – 18; Year 10 – 17; Year 11 – 16, Year 12 – 15; Year 13 – 14.



In the Login box enter your username and password
Students = Year of entry into year 7 + first 4 characters of your firstname
+ first character of your surname

e.g. Jane Doe entering year 7 in 2020 (Current Year 7) would be
20janed

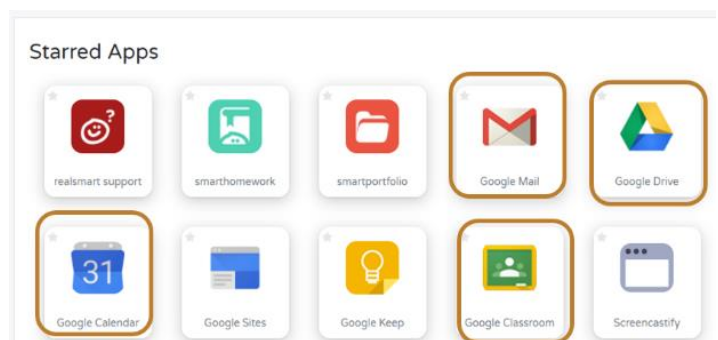


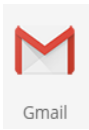
The default password is password, but students will have changed theirs

The tools

Not only are these tools accessible from anywhere and any computer, tablet or smart phone with internet access, they are also fully integrated with SIMS so for example student’s timetables are automatically added to the calendar, and the setting of work in Classroom sends an email reminder too.

Here is a brief description of each of the main tools and how they are useful for students in excelling in their learning.





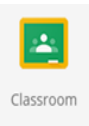
All students have an email to use with other Academy users.
The email is their username and then @thegrange.futureacademies.org
Students can email their teachers to clarify any issues around homework, and teachers will use it to contact their classes if needed.



The calendar is populated with the student timetable (students may like to adjust the timings to match the current arrangements.) Students can also add events and reminders.



Google Drive has all the tools to replace the need for Microsoft subscriptions. Google Docs is for text, Google Sheets for numbers, and Google Slides for presentations. These documents can be “turned in” for homework in Classroom without any need for a paper handout. If friends want to work on the same document together at the same time it can be “shared” between them – a useful study tool especially for revision.



Google Classroom was used very successfully in the summer term and we will continue to use it to set homework for all students going forward. Use of smarthomework will be paused for now.

Google Classroom is a powerful tool, with clear sections for homework - the “classwork” tab - as well as the facility to receive feedback and to respond to posts from teachers and fellow students. Key documents such as exam specifications would be saved here so you never have to lose a handout again.

All students are expected to access their online tools regularly to keep up with their studies. This is especially true if they are off school, and any lockdown will involve students following their normal timetable at home. The tools are a fantastic method for students to develop their knowledge of Google and the extension of their learning in the classroom using IT, and are expected to use it respectfully and responsibly. All Apps can be found on the app stores and can be used on smart phones and tablets if a computer is not available. Parents should use the login details for their own monitoring and support!

If you do have any queries on the system please use enquiries@thegrange.futureacademies.org.

Yours faithfully

Ian Sudbery
Vice Principal
The Grange Academy

