Remote education provision: information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents or carers about what to expect from remote education where national or local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home.

For details of what to expect where individual pupils are self-isolating, please see the final section of this page.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

A pupil's first day or two of being educated remotely might look different from our standard approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a longer period of remote teaching.

What should my child expect from immediate remote education in the first day or two of pupils being sent home?

Lessons will be moved to Google Meet immediately with this provision in place from day one.

Following the first few days of remote education, will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?

The full curriculum is represented in our remote learning provision.

Remote teaching and study time each day

How long can I expect work set by the school to take my child each day?

We expect that remote education (including remote teaching and independent work) will take pupils broadly the following number of hours each day:

Our expectation is that students will continue to work in accordance with their normal school timetable following the usual staggered day.

Accessing remote education

How will my child access any online remote education you are providing?

Students will log onto Google Classroom where there is a page for each of their subjects. It is via these Classrooms that instructions for live lessons, assignments, resources etc. will be posted.

If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will you support them to access remote education?

We recognise that some pupils may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education:

All our students in Years 7-11 are equipped with Google Chromebooks. Sixth Formers are also expected to have their own device, although this was not a formal requirement for our current Year 13s. Loan devices are available through IT Support if a student's device is broken or if a Sixth Former is in need.

As a School we have provided additional mobile data allowances for those students without fixed broadband oat home or those who have limited data. Do contact the School Office if your son/daughter is having connection issues.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils remotely:

Google Meet enables subject teachers to deliver high quality lessons. Most lessons incorporate a 'live' element during which students have the opportunity to interact with their teacher and peers. Even when the lesson is not being taught through video conferencing, students have the ability to ask questions via the Chat function.

Remote lessons will take on different forms just as they would in the classroom. There will be some direct teaching, as well as opportunities for individual and group work, the latter taking place in 'breakout rooms.'

When teaching students remotely we will:

- provide frequent, clear video explanations of new content, delivered by the teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos.
- set assignments so that students have meaningful and ambitious work to complete each lesson.
- teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject.
- gauge how well students are progressing through the curriculum, using questions and other suitable tasks.
- adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments.
- plan a programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching students would receive in school.

Engagement and feedback

What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

We expect students to follow their usual timetable and participate in all remote lessons as they would do during the course of a normal school day.

We would ask you to encourage your son/daughter to participate fully in their learning.

How will you check whether my child is engaging with their work and how will I be informed if there are concerns?

A register is taken during every lesson. Any students who do not attend the lesson, will be contacted by school in accordance with the school's usual attendance policy.

If a student doesn't submit assignments, then a member of staff will be in touch to inform parents and provide support if needed.

How will you assess my child's work and progress?

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are also valid and effective methods, amongst many others. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

Feedback will be given during the lesson, in response to student contributions, both verbally and through assessments. Some written feedback will be provided for some assignments submitted via Classroom.

Additional support for pupils with particular needs

How will you work with me to help my child who needs additional support from adults at home to access remote education?

We recognise that some pupils, for example some pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access remote education without support from adults at home. We acknowledge the difficulties this may place on families, and we will work with parents and carers to support those pupils in the following ways:

Lessons will be differentiated and delivered as usual in a way that supports all students, including those with particular needs.

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate but the majority of their peer group remains in school, how remote education is provided will likely differ from the approach for whole groups. This is due to the challenges of teaching pupils both at home and in school.

If my child is not in school because they are self-isolating, how will their remote education differ from the approaches described above?

Where students are absent but well enough to work (e.g. isolating but not ill), it is expected that they will access guidance through Google Classroom and complete any work identified to ensure that they keep up with their learning.

Students should submit completed work to their teachers via Google Classroom. Where they have completed work on paper, they can send a photograph of this to their teacher.

Where pupils have questions about the work, they should email their teacher for support. They should be aware that teachers may not be able to respond straight away as they will be teaching the class at school.