

## **Remote education provision: information for parents**

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to students and parents or carers about what to expect from remote education if local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home or schools close to most students as a result of a national lockdown.

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 students at home?**

A student'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 students being sent home?**

Relevant work is set each week on Google Classroom (irrespective of any decisions to isolate cohorts so that individual absentees can keep up with their peers). On the first day or two this is the work that students should complete. They must follow their normal timetable and stick to the timings of the college day. This enables their teachers to be online at the same time to offer support and guidance. It is reasonable to expect some live interaction but this may not be for every lesson in the first instance.

### **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?**

We teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we may need to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, the next planned topic in science may rely heavily on practicals, in which case it will be swapped with a topic due to be studied at a later date that lends itself more readily to remote learning. Similarly, practical subjects such as art, technology, music, drama and PE need to take different approaches to the curriculum in a remote environment.

## 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 students broadly the following number of hours each day:

<p>Secondary school-aged pupils not working towards formal qualifications this year</p>	<p>Approximately 4 hours per day for KS3 students.</p> <p>Whilst this is fewer hours than the normal school day it takes into account the fact that independent remote learning is a more intense experience than being in an actual classroom with your peers.</p> <p>Lessons will always start at the time outlined in the normal school timetable but may end slightly earlier to enable students time away from the screen prior to their next lesson.</p>
<p>Secondary school-aged pupils working towards formal qualifications this year</p>	<p>KS4 students should expect to spend at least 5 hours completing directed tasks in addition to their independent revision plans.</p> <p>Lessons will always start at the time outlined in the normal school timetable and students are expected to continue their independent studies beyond the end of the school day.</p>

## Accessing remote education

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

All year groups use Google Classroom. Other, subject-specific, online platforms are used to enhance students' experiences and these are all signposted from their classroom in Google Classroom. These include but are not limited to Sparx, Ezyeducation, YouTube, Quizlets.

### 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 students may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those students to access remote education:

In October we carried out a parental survey to establish the level of need. As predicted, demand far outstrips that which we have available and so pastoral teams will prioritise based on several criteria including educational stage and access to less ideal technology (e.g tablet or phone).

Please inform us of your challenges and we will support you as best we can.

Paper based work can be provided to students who need it.

### How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- live teaching (online lessons) via Google Classroom and Google Meet (GM): staff will be on line through the 'stream' function of GC throughout the 60 minute lesson and will provide episodes of (virtual) face to face teaching via GM within that time as best fits their objective for that session.
- resources and tasks set on Google Classroom to be completed independently
- Certain tasks need to be uploaded and submitted for marking – these will be clearly identified to students
- recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers, Ezyeducation)
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- textbooks and reading books pupils have at home

## **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?**

Students are expected to follow their timetabled day in order to join live lessons and on-line discussions on Google Classroom and Google Meet.

When not having (virtual) face to face contact with their teacher they are expected to complete the tasks set and upload the work on the 'classwork' section of Google Classroom as and when directed by their teacher.

They may be directed to watch videos, complete quizzes, upload photos and so forth. They are expected to follow these instructions or explain to their teacher if they are not able to.

Parents should ask to see what their child has done that day – the main thing to check for is that they have actually attached and submitted the work requested as opposed to simply clicking 'done'.

Here are some video links to help:

Google Classroom for Students & Parents (Google Classroom Tutorial 2020) - YouTube

How to Use Google Classroom for Parents! - YouTube

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

We are mindful of the different challenges facing families all trying to work and learn from home, so we endeavour to take a pragmatic approach. For example, parents will not be notified if their child misses a single lesson. However, if, over the course of a week engagement has been poor (measured by the submission of work as opposed to attendance at live lessons) you will receive an email.

### **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 students' work is as follows:

A range of strategies will be used as is normal practice in a classroom context.

- During live lessons the teacher will use questions and answers (either through video and camera or the chat function) to assess understanding and engagement.
- Students are expected to upload written work on the 'classwork' page of Google Classroom when directed to do so by their teacher. The teacher will either provide written feedback to this work such that the relevant teaching and learning points are clear to students or a grade.
- Teachers may also use quizzes that provide instant feedback to students to inform future teaching and learning.

## **Additional support for students 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 students, for example some students 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 students in the following ways:

SEND students are allocated a key worker in school and they make regular phone calls to support and differentiate work as necessary. This may also result in setting paper-based work that removes the need for technology where this is a barrier to the young person.

Where it is appropriate, the student will be encouraged to attend the school setting in order to receive face to face support from a member of the SEND team.

## **Remote education for self-isolating students**

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 students both at home and in school at the same time.

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

Appropriate work will be set on Google Classroom on the stream each week and can be completed by students at a time that suits them. Where directed, they should email the work for feedback and use either the 'stream' function on GC or email if they have questions. There is no live provision available due to the fact that staff are teaching the students currently in school.