

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 if 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?

For the first 24 hours of remote education, students will work from the filing cabinets on the academy website. If students require paper-based work packs, these will be sent either with the students on the day they go home or posted out. Teams online lessons will then begin the following day in line with their normal timetable, unless otherwise communicated.

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?

As an academy, we are aiming to teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school. In order to do so, we will maintain the normal teaching timetable for students wherever possible and appropriate. This includes assemblies, pastoral support and interventions.

Due to the nature of remote learning, teachers may need to slightly change the structure of their lessons such as in PE or other practical subjects. Wherever this is done, teachers will ensure that this matches the national curriculum/examination specifications.

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:

<p>Secondary school-aged pupils not working towards formal qualifications this year</p>	<p>Students in the lower school will follow their normal timetable of 5 lessons per day with breaks. They will complete homework as per the homework booklet. You should expect there to be a lesson (including registration) taking place each period, but lessons may only be 'live' for 50% of the time. This is to ensure a balance between progress and wellbeing.</p>
<p>Secondary school-aged pupils working towards formal qualifications this year</p>	<p>Students in the upper school will follow their normal timetable of 5 lessons per day with breaks. They will complete homework as set by their teachers, but this should follow the normal patterns as when students are learning onsite. You should expect there to be a lesson (including registration) taking place each period, but lessons may only be 'live' for 50% of the time. This is to ensure a balance between progress and wellbeing.</p>

Accessing remote education

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

Resources for the first 24 hours are stored in the filing cabinets on the academy website under Remote Learning.

Live lessons will be delivered using Microsoft Teams. This can be downloaded for free (including the rest of Microsoft Office) by logging into OneDrive. Details of how to download Office 365 can be found on the Remote Learning webpage.

Students can use Microsoft Teams on computers, laptops, tablets, mobile phones and games consoles such as PlayStation and Xbox. If you require help, please contact the academy and we will be happy to support. The academy is also in a position to support with WiFi, should this be required.

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:

As an academy we have received laptops from the government which we are able to distribute to families who need them. We also have several internet dongles which can be made available if required.

If your family has requested a laptop, you will be added to our list and as the laptops become available, they will be delivered to you.

Whilst waiting for a laptop, the academy will provide paper-based work packs for students to work through, which cover the same content as that which is being delivered in online Teams lessons. Paper-based work can be submitted to teachers by taking a photo of the completed work and emailing it to the class teacher.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

For both students in the lower and the upper school, lessons will be delivered via Microsoft Teams. These lessons will be as similar to in school teaching as possible and will mean that the duration of actual screen time will vary per lesson per day.

As an example, the first history lesson of the week might be introducing a new topic and last for the full hour as a live lesson. The next lesson might involve a shorter input from the teacher, followed by some videos/written materials to work with. The lesson after might then have a task to complete with live support from the teacher while the students are working.

We would not expect every live lesson to consist of the teacher talking for the whole hour as this does not match the teaching style in school.

Students in the upper school and especially those completing vocational qualifications, may be completing longer pieces of work but they will still have regular live input from their teachers to support them.

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?

The academy expects that students will attend their online live lessons each day. If there are problems accessing devices, we would expect students to use the paper-based work packs until the device access issues are resolved. If families are sharing devices with siblings, we will endeavour to support by lending laptops. In the meantime, we ask that you prioritise all students attending their English, Mathematics and Science lessons and using the paper-based work packs for their other subjects.

As Parents, you can support your child by helping them to set a regular routine for their day, including bedtimes and mealtimes. It is also helpful if you can ensure that your child attends their lessons and takes part. We will contact you and let you know if they are not attending their lessons.

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

Teachers will take registers for each class and the attendance team will closely monitor attendance. You will be notified by text or by telephone call if your child has not attended a lesson.

Students will continue to be assessed throughout this period and this assessment is likely to be based upon both an end of unit assessment and their performance in lessons or by submitting work.

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:

Each week, Teachers will carry out quick quizzes with students to check their understanding of the units they are studying. Students will also get feedback from teachers on the work that they are submitting.

Furthermore, students will continue to be assessed throughout this period and this assessment is likely to be based upon both an end of unit assessment and their performance in lessons or by submitting work.

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:

Teachers are all aware of all SEND updates regarding our children on a weekly basis using the same system as when we are in school.

All students with EHCP receive will weekly pastoral check-in to support SEMH needs. Please feel free to raise any queries you have during these check-ins. Emotional Regulation work will continue to happen weekly for students with SEMH needs and who have been identified as needing this support.

Laptops for students with SEN have been prioritised and WIFI dongles will be issued to students who require this. There is also a Remote Learning TEAM file for SEN support documents and resources for all subjects.

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?

The filing cabinets on the academy website are kept up to date with work that matches the topics which are being covered at any given time.

If a student needs to self-isolate and has access to ICT, they should work through the resources in the filing cabinets and email work into their teachers for feedback.

If a student needs to self-isolate and does not have access to ICT, they will be given a paper-based work pack. They should work through this pack and hand their work in to their teachers on their return. If they require feedback during this time, we can arrange a phone call with a teacher to offer support. We would not be able to accept paper-based work packs during a period of self-isolation due to the risk of infection.

If a year group or large bubble of students have to self-isolate, a programme of live lessons and tutorials will be put in place based upon the numbers required to isolate.