Virtual Learning information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to parents/carers and students about what to expect from Virtual Learning 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.

Intent

To ensure all students have access to quality education during lockdown restrictions via remote learning

The Virtual Learning 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 Learning.

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

Students will be provided with workpacks to complete in the first instance. Thereafter, students will have the opportunity to join live lessons using Google Meet or access on-line learning using Google Classroom.

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 where appropriate. However, we need to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, Art, PE, Food Technology and DT.

Virtual Learning 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:

- Key stage 3 and 4: 5 hours

Accessing remote education

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

Virtual Learning is accessed through Google Classroom and Google Meet

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:

- Where possible, students will be provided with a laptop that can be collected from the Academy and, if needed, a router. These are provided on a needs basis.

- Paper copies of work will be made available and can be collected from the Academy. All work completed should be returned to the Academy for marking and assessment purposes.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- live teaching (online lessons)

- on-line learning activities set on Google Classroom

- recorded teaching

- printed paper packs produced by teachers

- textbooks and reading books students have at home

- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific

subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences

- long-term project work and/or internet research activities

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 all students to engage with Virtual Learning

- We value parental support, for example, setting routines to support your child's education

- We encourage parents/carers to contact us immediately if there are any issues preventing their child from accessing or completing Virtual 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 of attendance to live lessons and other virtual learning platforms is monitored daily.

- Parents will be contacted if their child has not accessed the provision. For pupils completing work using paper-based resources, regular welfare calls from staff will be used to monitor completion of work and arrangements put in place to provide additional resources where 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 students. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via Google Classroom are also valid and effective methods, amongst many others. Our approach to feeding back on students' work is as follows:

- Learning assessed through Google Classroom and Google Meet at least once per week

- For students completing their work using paper-based resources, once this has been returned to the Academy, it will be marked and returned

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 Lducation 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:

- Provide additional support for SEND students through live support sessions delivered by Teaching Assistants that are timetabled throughout the week

- Provide access to differentiated work to scaffold learning which may include a modified timetable

Remote education for self-isolating students

Where individual students 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 possible, students will be provided with a laptop that can be collected from the Academy and, if needed, a router.

- Paper copies of work will be made available and can be collected from the Academy. All work completed should be returned to the Academy for marking and assessment purposes

- Where possible, students will have the opportunity to join live lessons using Google Meet or access the learning on-line using Google Classroom

- We teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we will make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, Art, PE, Food Technology and DT.

- Students' completed work may be assessed on-line using Google Classroom and Google Meet. For students completing work on paper, this needs to be delivered to the Academy for marking and assessment purposes.