

Remote learning and teaching: Information for parents/carers

As a school we are very much taking a holistic and blended approach to remote learning. We firmly believe that a set routine is exceptionally important in helping everyone maintain a sense of purpose and helps aid wellbeing.

Curriculum

The curriculum delivered to students remotely offers the same breadth and balance as if they were physically in school, and as such should equate to 5 hours per day as a minimum. The remote curriculum will be delivered via **Microsoft Teams**.

As such, all students should follow their normal timetables, and will have a mixture of 'live' lessons, set work and challenge tasks. We are conscious that too much screen time can have a negative impact, and as such we have strived for balance:

- **Live lessons** will be delivered in a variety of formats, including 'live direct teaching', pre-recorded teaching (both video and audio) and independent supervised lessons. Live lessons will enable students to directly interact with their teachers, for each of these lessons, students should ensure they are logged on to Teams and equipped with the relevant books, pens and pencils etc. Students should also remember that our normal high expectations in terms of behaviour are expected at all times. Students should begin each live lesson with their cameras off and their microphones muted, and should wait for the teacher to begin the lesson. If staff members are unwell or absent due to unforeseen circumstances, we will endeavour to communicate this to students as soon as possible
- **Other lessons;** students will be set work to complete independently but of course can always message their teachers on Teams to help clarify their understanding and/or to ask for additional support.
- We recognise that every student's home circumstances are unique and understand that some may have to complete some of the class/lesson work in the evenings and weekends. Therefore, to avoid placing too much pressure on your children, no homework will be set in addition to the class/lesson work that will be set. However, if students feel that they would like to be challenged with more work, they can simply ask their teacher for further independent tasks to complete. The Government has also set up the Oak National Academy to provide additional learning resources for students of all ages. Just use the following link: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/> and students can find material to complement the work set by their teachers.

Access

Students will access the bulk of their remote learning via Microsoft Teams, which may be complemented by other digital platforms such as Seneca, Kahoot and Quizlet. We appreciate that some students will face challenges in accessing online provision for a number of reasons.

The Pastoral Deputy Headteacher, the pastoral team and the IT technician team will work together to ensure that challenges are overcome. They will:

- Survey all Parents/Carers in regard to access
- Survey all students in regard to access
- Directly contact 'hard-to-reach' Parents/Carers in regard to access
- Monitor student engagement and contact students, parents and carers where there are issues to determine if these are access based.
- When laptops/tablets are issued, they will be delivered via a member of staff or can be collected direct from the school site (following all COVID-19 safety protocols)
- If there are still barriers to remote learning, students will be invited into school to use the IT facilities or a personalised plan based upon non-digital access will be drawn up by the relevant HoY.

Student engagement

The school's expectation is that students will engage with all live lessons and complete all work following their normal timetable. However, student wellbeing must come first; we recognise that every student's home circumstances are unique and understand that some may have to complete parts of the class/lesson work in the evenings and weekends.

Student engagement will be monitored on a lesson by lesson basis by teachers and weekly by Heads of Year. If there are any issues parents/carers will be contacted as soon as possible.

Parent/Carer support

Parents/carers should discuss our expectations with their children and try to ensure that:

- Students are ready to learn at the beginning of each day
- Students have a quiet space in which to work; ideally at a table/desk
- Students are punctual to all live lessons and display excellent behaviour for learning
- Students contact their teachers if they are struggling or need additional support

Further to this, parents/carers are encouraged to contact the school if they need any guidance or have any concerns.

Assessment and Feedback

Feedback will take many forms and will include self, peer and teacher assessment. Examples include whole-class feedback, quizzes, marked work and graded pieces where appropriate.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The school SENCo (Mr Andy Scott) will lead on ensuring that all SEND students have parity with non-SEND students. The needs of SEND students will be regularly reviewed and parents/carers contacted on a regular basis. As per every student, engagement will be monitored as above.

Remote education for self-isolating students

When school is open to all students, and individual students need to self-isolate, then remote learning will follow a blended approach. Students will still access their full curriculum, all work will be accessed via Microsoft Teams and will be a mixture of 'live' lessons, set tasks and independent work.