

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?

In line with DfE Guidance, remote learning will be provided from the second day of students being sent home or told to stay at home, at the latest. Some learning may be provided on the same day.

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?

Yes, we teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects, for example practical subjects such as PE and Technology

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:

Key Stage 3	5 hours per day
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Key Stage 4	5/6 hours per day
Key Stage 5	6 hours per day

Accessing remote education

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

At KS3 and 4 all work will be set via Class Charts Homework.
At KS5 work will be set directly via email or in Google Classroom.
The main platforms that are used are Google Classroom and Google Meet along with some subject specific platforms such as Hegarty Maths.

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:

Please contact school via info@stmacademy.org.uk if you have any questions about online access. We have distributed a significant number of laptops and other devices and have supported families with online access as well. We will continue to do this throughout the pandemic.

There are some students for whom paper materials are more appropriate, these are posted out each week, ready for the start of the following week. Families using paper copies are contacted individually to agree the best way to submit work completed on paper.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We believe, as highlighted in the recent Ofsted Report on Remote Learning, that a variety of approaches should be used rather than a single strategy. Students across all Key Stages will experience a mixture of lessons, tasks and activities.

All students should aim to follow their normal timetable of lessons each day. KS3 and KS4 students will have work and information about each lessons set in Class Charts Homework while at KS5 information will normally be shared via email.

All students will have live sessions with their subject teachers, via Google Meet and Google Classroom. These sessions will include direct teaching, use of pre-recorded video and recorded Powerpoint and the opportunity for students to ask questions and share ideas. In other lessons students will have live contact with their teachers, usually via Classroom or Meet while completing tasks.

Some subjects will also use other high quality resources or platforms such as the Government's Oak Academy and Hegarty Maths.

Teachers will make clear to students which tasks should be submitted and how this should be done. This would normally be via Class Charts or email.

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 normal timetable of lessons each day.

At KS3 students should be able to complete most of their work during the timetabled lessons. Teachers will make it clear to students which tasks need to be fully completed and then submitted.

At KS4 students will also sometimes be set tasks that should be completed outside of their lessons.

At KS5 students will be expected to use their study periods to continue with tasks from lessons, complete new tasks and prepare for future lessons.

Parents should encourage their children to follow the routine of the timetabled lessons wherever possible. For our younger students this will mean that they will be keep up to date with their work.

Parents should also encourage students to try to get some fresh air each day and do some exercise.

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

At KS3 and 4 parents will be able to see all work set on Class Charts so can check with their child to make sure work is completed. Teachers will notify parents via Class Charts if work is not submitted or if students miss compulsory live sessions. This is for information only.

At all Key Stages, if there is a significant concern about overall engagement then a member of the pastoral team will contact parents. If the concern is in a particular subject then someone from that subject will contact parents.

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:

In the same way as if students were in school, teachers will use a variety of methods of assessment. For some tasks, students will check their own answers, as they would in a normal lesson while other tasks that are submitted will be marked by the teacher. Whole class feedback will be given during lessons usually either verbally or using Google Classroom and individual feedback will be given normally via Class Charts or email. Some platforms, such as Hegarty Maths automatically mark students' answers but also allow teachers to give specific feedback and support for students.

At KS4 and 5 (and sometimes at KS3) students will be asked to prepare for and then complete a task or assessment under 'test' conditions. While we recognise that this has its challenges we feel that it still an important way to assess what students know and understand.

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:

Members of the SEND and Pastoral teams are in weekly contact with students who may need additional support. Each child's needs are unique and so a variety of support will be provided.

If parents feel their child needs some additional support then they should contact the Head of Year.

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?

For students who are self isolating we will try to provide as remote education that is as close as possible to what is described above but it is likely to be that, mainly at KS3 and 4, there may be fewer live sessions that students are able to attend. (See 'Remote Learning Policy: for when school is open to all students' on our website)