

Remote education provision: information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to students and parents/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 students 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?

Our remote education platform is Microsoft Teams. All students and teachers have received training in this, and so lessons will continue immediately using Microsoft Teams. Students can access this using the dedicated app (available for all devices) or can sign in to www.office.com using their school email address and password. The invitations to lessons are shared with the students via their calendar and Teams app.

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 following the school timetable. The delivery of lessons is adapted for remote learning but, wherever possible and appropriate, the same content is covered. However, we have needed to make some specific adaptations in some subjects. For example, in PE lessons, students may be set a series of challenges to develop their personal fitness. In practical subjects such as music, art or drama, work set may be a combination of practical work (where possible) and theory work.

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 5 hours per day. This is in line with the number of lessons they would normally have in school. All lessons will be scheduled in Teams and work set is communicated using the same platform. When all students are in school we operate a split lunch system to keep students in year group bubbles. The timings for these vary depending on the year group.

Accessing remote education

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

All students will access remote education through the Microsoft platform. Students can access all Microsoft applications through the school website. They are also able to download all Microsoft applications to different devices for free. It is important that students are regularly checking their email in order to get notifications for lessons and additional notices from teachers. When students sign on to Microsoft Teams they will see that they are added to a separate team for each class/subject. Clicking on the Team will take them into the class area. Live lessons are scheduled as 'meetings' in the general area.

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:

- If you do not have access to a device to complete remote learning effectively, you fall into the category of educationally vulnerable. The school will be in contact with families with regards to arranging for these students to come into school and learn from here.
- If there is an issue with access to a device to complete remote education, please let us know immediately by contacting the school.
- We will do everything we can to support remote education and have a number of devices that we may be able to lend as well as helping to resolve any issues with connecting to the internet.
- We recognise that some students may only be able to take part in lessons on a device with a small screen, such as a mobile phone. We are happy for students to complete any work set on paper instead of on a computer if needed.
- If students are completing remote education on paper rather than a computer they can always upload a photo of their work. Where this is not possible, we will work with you to find a solution.
- Parents can request additional mobile data via the school website or by contacting the school.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Live lessons each day. These may be supported with pre-recorded material planned by the individual teachers.
- Lessons ensure that frequent, clear explanations of new content is delivered by a teacher through high-quality curriculum resources.
- Work is set so that students have meaningful and ambitious tasks to complete each day in several different subjects.

- Teaching is planned and sequenced so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject.
- Students are assessed using questions and other suitable tasks. This allows the teacher to adapt the lessons and support students with extra challenge or help.
- Teachers adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure students' understanding.
- Knowledge organisers for the term will be sent home via the post. This will ensure that all students have additional access to the curriculum throughout this period of remote learning.

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 remote education where they can. Each day of remote education begins with a registration session with form tutors and it is essential that every child attends this. As well as maintaining contact with the tutor, this session will help to troubleshoot any issues. As parents/carers we need your support to ensure your child sticks to the routines of completing schoolwork at the right times and is provided with a space they can work without distraction. Where this is not possible, please let us know and we will offer additional support.

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

Student engagement with remote learning is monitored daily. A register is taken for every lesson as well as the morning register with tutors. Where students are not engaging, this will initially be followed up with contact home to try and resolve any potential issues. Where students are attending remote education lessons but there are concerns with the quality or quantity of work being done, the individual teachers will contact home.

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 valid and effective methods, amongst many others. Our approach to assessment of student work is as follows:

- Teachers deliver a lesson through Microsoft Teams and set work to be completed through the remainder of the lesson. This work is handed in electronically using the assignments function in Teams or teachers may ask students to email it to them.
- With assignments submitted through Teams, there is a feedback function built into the platform where teachers can mark or comment on student work. The assignment function also allows for teachers to give live feedback as the child is

working online. Many teachers find this the most effective way to give the students feedback as they can improve the work in real time with the teacher's support. Students also value this type of immediate feedback.

- Teachers are not expected to mark every piece of work in depth, but they will be checking work and addressing any errors or misconceptions with students in the following lessons.
- We use quizzes through online forms to assess student understanding. This provides instant student feedback and scores are recorded so that teachers can address common mistakes in future lessons.

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. Please contact our SEND co-ordinator, Amanda Erasmus (aerasmus@uhs.org.uk), with any specific concerns and queries.

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 students 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?

While live remote teaching is not possible while the class teacher is teaching their class, we will use broadly the same approach as outlined above. We will ensure individual students self-isolating are taught a planned and well-sequenced curriculum with meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects, including providing feedback. Each day the class teacher will set work that is in line with the work that is happening in the classroom. Written slides explaining the learning along with tasks to be completed will be published using Teams and students' completed tasks will be submitted and marked by the teacher. Students can request additional support using Teams and adults in school will respond to support when they are available.