Remote Education

Information

Remote education provision: information for parents

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

All students will be able to access all lesson presentations and resources via the student absence folder on the VLE. This can also be found on the student page of the Academy website.

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 appropriate. However, we may need to make some adaptations on some occasions. For example, if a member of staff is absent and a subject specialist is not available to deliver live lessons, then students will access the work via the VLE to complete independently.

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 between 5-6 hours daily. Students will follow the normal timetable with lessons, break and lunch times being scheduled at the same times as they would if the students were on site. Lessons are two periods long and hence there are 3 lessons each day (Period 1 and 2, Period 3 and 4, Period 5 and 6). The timetable runs over two weeks.

	Period 1	Break	Period 2	Break	Period 3	Break	Period 4	Break	Period 5	Period 6
Y7	8:55-9:50		9:50-10:40	10:40-11:10	11:10-12:05		12:05-12:50	12:50-1:30	1:30-2:25	2:25-3:20
Y8	8:40-10:00	10:00-10:30	10:30-11:10		11:10-12:00	12:00-12:40	12:40-1:30		1:30-2:25	2:25-3:10
Y9	8:40-10:00	10:00-10:30	10:30-11:10		11:10-12:00	12:00-12:40	12:40-1:30		1:30-2:25	2:25-3:10
Y10	8:40-10:00	10:00-10:30	10:30-11:10		11:10-12:00	12:00-12:40	12:40-1:30		1:30-2:25	2:25-3:10
Y11	8:55-9:50		9:50-10:40	10:40-11:10	11:10-12:05		12:05-12:50	12:50-1:30	1:30-2:25	2:25-3:20

Accessing remote education

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

Students will be added to a live lesson via calendar invite on Microsoft Teams. Resources can also be accessed via the student absence folder on the VLE.

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:
Parents are advised to contact the Assistant Principal i/c Student Services should they need to be considered for the loan of electronic devices. These requests are then discussed with the Heads of Year who liaise with the ICT department to facilitate the loan of school equipment if alternative provision cannot be sourced.

Mr C Lakin: Assistant Principal i/c Student Services: Clakin@toa.shaw-education.org.uk

Online education is a relatively new phenomena for both teachers and parents and ways to overcome accessibility are being updated regularly. A solution for many students who do not have a laptop or tablet is to use their games console to access lessons that are being taught via Microsoft Teams. This has proven to be an invaluable way to gain access to remote learning. The key details are as follows:

For an Xbox;
1.   Plug a keyboard into the Xbox USB slot.
2.   Go to my games and apps.
3.   Find and select Microsoft Edge.
4.   Navigate to your online learning platform.

For a PlayStation;
1.   Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (WWW with dots around it).
2.   Press the PlayStation logo on the controller.
3.   Go to the library and find options for games and applications.

4. Go to applications and you will find the internet browser.
5. Navigate to your online learning platform and log in as usual.

Often issues around internet connection can be resolved by the loan of dongles to boost wi-fi access. Keyboards can also be loaned to help those students using a games console to interact with their teachers. For these sorts of enquiries and for reissuing of passwords, support with software etc. please contact the ICT department directly

Mr P Vickers: ICT Technician: ITSupport@toa.shaw-education.org.uk

Resources needed for practical subjects, art materials for example can be requested via the Head of Department for each subject or class teachers, these materials, essential for GCSE students, can then be arranged for collection at Main Reception.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- live teaching (online lessons)
- recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- resources provided via the student absence folder on the VLE
- textbooks and reading books students have at home
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences (e.g. Maths Watch, Seneca Learning)
- 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?

Students are expected to engage with all aspects of remote education. Registers will be taken to monitor and track student attendance and engagement with live lessons and the work provided. Parents should support their child with establishing routines and creating a purposeful home learning environment.

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

Engagement registers will be taken during every live lesson. Completion of work will also be monitored, and any concerns will be discussed with parents. Our Pastoral Support Team will be making daily calls home for any students who have failed to engage.

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 digital platforms are also valid and effective methods, amongst many others. Our approach to feeding back on student work is as follows:

- verbal feedback
- whole class feedback
- written personalised feedback (handwritten or emailed)
- Q&A during lessons
- quizzes
- end of unit assessments
- exam questions (marks and written feedback)
- digital platforms such as Maths Watch and Seneca Learning
- self-assessment and use of green / purple pen as per Academy policy

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.

Teachers are advised to differentiate the work that they set as a best endeavour to meet the needs of all students. Students who have been awarded an EHCP are identified as vulnerable learners by the DfE and can attend school throughout any period of forced closure. Those students who do not wish to attend will have daily contact from a Learning Support Assistant under the direction of the SENCo to make reasonable adjustments to the work set by teachers. Students who are recognised on the SEND record but do not have a significant need to be awarded an EHCP (known as SENK) are also contacted twice weekly by the SEND team to ensure that their needs are being met.

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?

Students will be able to access all lesson presentations and resources via the student absence folder on the VLE. They will follow the same timetabled lessons and complete the same work as their peers in the classroom. Students should email their completed work to their class teacher in order to receive feedback.