

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?

Where a student is individually self-isolating work will be set via Ed Lounge and Teams for Year 11; students have been shown how to use both of these resources and guidance can be found on our website.

Where a large group of students are sent home during the day as a result of being identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, their teachers will set work via via Ed Lounge and Teams for Year 11 for the rest of the lessons that 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?

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, in practical subjects such as Art and Music, we will deliver the coursework elements of the course where practical activities cannot continue at home.

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	4 hours remote learning lessons per day + 1 hour of structured independent work per day.
Key Stage 4	4 hours remote learning lessons per day + 1 hour of structured independent work per day.

Ed Lounge and Teams (for Year 11) are the normal method of delivery but are subject to external parameters such as connectivity issues.

Accessing remote education

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

Students access all online remote education via their normal Ed Lounge and Teams (for Year 11). Where instructions may differ, students and parents will be contacted.

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:

All students have been surveyed to assess their ability to access remote provision on an individual laptop or tablet. Where a student does not have access to their own laptop or tablet we have:

Where possible we have issued laptops to lend to students

A computer keyboard can be provided to support students accessing e-learning through a Playstation or Xbox

A small number of dongles to provide internet access

Access to the DfE scheme to boost internet access

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Students will be taught live via Ed Lounge and Teams (for Year 11). Staff continually explore new platforms to engage students with learning, including some of the following examples:

GCSE Pod

Ed Class TV

Students will be signposted to these platforms via their normal google classroom and google meet.

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?

All students are expected to attend all online lessons and be present promptly. Registers are taken for each lesson within the first 10 minutes and MAT Team will contact any students who are not present online. Parents will also be notified.

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

Staff check engagement with work every lesson and parents are informed immediately if there are any issues.

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:

Ed Lounge automatically marks the work students are completing and provides instant feedback. The work that Year 11 are completing through Teams can be uploaded for teachers to mark or handed in as part of the ongoing face to face contact.

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:

All students who attend Southway have been offered a place every day to support learning. Where students are struggling to engage with digital learning the MAT Team will provide support to students and families to support access to learning.

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?

Students who are individually self-isolating work will be set via Ed Lounge or through Teams in line with the normal curriculum.