

## **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 if local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home. This information has been shared with parents via the School newsletter as well as correspondence from the Headteacher. Information videos how to use the technology to support remote learning can be found on our school website.

For details of what to expect where individual pupils are self-isolating, please see the final section of this page.

### **What should my child expect from immediate remote education in the first day or two of pupils being sent home?**

During remote learning, we will be using Microsoft teams [TEAMS]. Teachers will teach the lesson in the usual manner with around 30 minutes of input. The rest of the lesson students will be expected to work independently, using the TEAMS chat function to communicate with their teacher in the usual manner. This is to prevent prolonged screen time and to ensure students continue to develop their independence. The school day will follow the usual school timings. All resources for the lesson will be in the files section of the meeting.

If a child is told that they must self-isolate (and therefore work remotely) they will be invited, on TEAMS, to join their usual lesson “live”. Occasionally there may be a delay in this invite being issued, dependant on when teaching staff are informed of the need to self-isolate. This will be dependent on the time of day in which test results are passed to the school and the case load at the time.

The live lesson will be just that, live. If the teacher is at school, or at home isolating, the lesson will take place at the same time that the lesson usually would [if the child was at school]. They will be able to hear the teacher and see the screen which is shared. Any documentation required, or video links, will be stored in the files section on TEAMS or shared in the chat function during the lesson. Both the chat and the files are available after the lesson as well as during. If the teacher is unwell, and the lesson is a “cover” lesson, then work will be placed on Show My Homework [SMHW] by another member of staff. Therefore, if a child does not receive an invite to the live lesson then they should check SMHW.

## **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 if learning is taking place within the school building. This is the case wherever possible and appropriate. We have however had to make some adaptations in practical subjects; for example, PE, Catering and Construction. Students will have a live lesson, just as they would for any other subject area, the content will be adjusted to allow completion of work whilst 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:

Secondary school-aged pupils not working towards formal qualifications this year	5 hours, plus homework activities
Secondary school-aged pupils working towards formal qualifications this year	6 hours, plus homework activities; Year 11 students will continue to have Period 6. Year 12 and 13 students should continue their independent revision in addition to taught lessons.

## **Accessing remote education**

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

We are using TEAMS to deliver our remote learning. In order to facilitate the transition towards using this platform (September 2020 – December 2020) we have also used SMHW to share information and resources as well as to provide support.

From January 2021 onwards TEAMS will be used. The exception to this is if a teacher is unwell. In If the teacher is unwell and the lesson is a “cover” lesson, then work will be placed on SMHW by another member of staff. Therefore, if a child does not receive an invite to the live lesson then they should check SMHW.

### **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:

We have a dedicated team standing by to support students and parents with ICT issues. This team can be contacted by emailing [itsupport@kes.essex.sch.uk](mailto:itsupport@kes.essex.sch.uk). Any smart device (for example, a phone or kindle) will be able to access our remote learning provision. For the majority of subject areas, classwork should be handwritten in students exercise books, as would be the case if student learning was taking place in the school building.

We have issued laptops to students eligible for Pupil Premium funding in the first instance. Laptops are lent to students assessed to have the greatest need, for example, those students who are working towards formal qualifications this year. We are working towards providing laptops, on a short term basis, for other students in need, who are not working towards formal qualifications this year.

We do provide dongles with some laptops, however most of our students do have Wi-Fi or suitable internet access. We currently do not have any students without internet access. If you, as parents, have concerned regarding Wi-Fi provision please contact the school.

## **How will my child be taught remotely?**

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

If the teacher is well; either at school or isolating at home, students will receive live teaching via TEAMS. Teachers may use a range of resources, as they would do as would be the case if student learning was taking place in the school building. Breakout rooms may be used (within TEAMS) for some students.

If a teacher is unwell then students will receive information on remote learning via SMHW. This may include platforms such as MyMaths or recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers).

## **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 attendance to remote lessons is recorded in a similar manner to those students who are at school. Students are expected to attend lessons and participate using the chat function. Microphones and Videos must be switched off. Parents are expected to ensure that students are engaging with the lesson and are taking a break, away from the screen, when they would usually have a break-time or between lessons.

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

Students are expected to engage in their learning via the chat function on TEAMS. Attendance to remote learning lessons is regularly checked. If a concerning pattern of behaviour appears, then parents are contacted by the school.

### **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:

Assessment is carried out in line with our usual school practice. Work is submitted on SMHW and whole class feedback via Feed Forward tasks are produced. Individual feedback is also given via SMHW.

## **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:

Students who are isolating, and who have additional needs are, wherever possible, contacted by the SEND department. LSAs work closely with that child to ensure that they are able to access the work. This maybe via phone conversation, as a guest to TEAMS lessons, or in a breakout room within TEAMS.

## **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?**

If a student in self isolating then the approach is the same as described above.