



Remote Education Policy & Information

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Remote education provision: information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency for our students and parents / carers regarding remote education. It outlines what to expect from our policy, if local or national restrictions, or staffing levels mean we can no longer open the site safely, and entire cohorts (or bubbles) have 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?

We are dedicated to ensuring all pupils continue to work through the planned curriculum when in self-isolation or lockdown; therefore, all students working from home will follow an identical curriculum, one that has been planned and adapted in light of the current pandemic by our department leads.

What should my child expect from immediate remote education on the first day of students being sent home?

The first morning after a closure is announced you'll child will have a live tutor time session, 8:20-8:50am. They can access the link via their Tutor Google Classroom and log in to Google Classroom using their @mybest.org.uk email address. This will be an opportunity for any child to ask questions or share concerns.

Throughout any closure period, students will follow their usual timetable. A copy of their timetable can be found on EduLink. If your child requires a copy be emailed to them, please contact Miss S Butler, sbutler@bestacademies.org.uk.

Following a national announcement of school closures, the first subject lesson during a 2-week cycle, will always be delivered live via Google Meet. Links will be made available in subject specific Google Classrooms either at the top of the classroom or in the Stream. It is during this time that teachers will clearly explain subject expectations over the course of the week ahead.

Work may not be present for staff who are absent from The Academy due to sickness. The Academy will try to cover these live lessons; however, if this is not possible, independent work will be set. In the unlikely situation that work cannot be set, students should complete other subject work or use other platforms such as The Oak Academy website (<https://classroom.thenational.academy/>) or BBC Bitesize website (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>) for additional work.

Will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?

Your child will be taught the planned curriculum remotely as if we were in school wherever possible and appropriate. Depending on the length of a school closure our subject leads may make some adaptations to the order of teaching or the content due to resource accessibility or assessment opportunities. Teachers may also pre-record some activities, practicals or experiments where we are unable to deliver these live.

Students will still be expected to contribute to lessons by completing tasks and sharing their responses; answering questions posed directly to them and contributing to class discussions.

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 (live online teaching or independent work) will take students broadly the same amount of time as if they are in school.

At Key Stage 3 & 4, they should complete 25 hours a week of curriculum learning, as well as roughly 5 hours of homework.

At Key Stage 5, a full-time student is expected to complete between 27-30 hours a week including live lessons, independent work, homework and prep time.

All years should attend two live tutor sessions a week and engage with the weekly recorded assembly.

We have renamed Core PE to 'Well-Being Hour' and encourage all students to exercise, enjoy a hobby or interest or partake in a relaxation activity. The PE department continue to publish a range of workout opportunities and share alternative ideas via their Twitter account @SamWhitPE.

Accessing remote education

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

Students can access all our live lesson links and independent work via our online learning platform, Google Classroom - www.classroom.google.com and login using their @mybest.org.uk email.

Homework continues to be set via Satchel One (formerly Show My Homework) - <https://www.satchelone.com/login>
As part of live lessons students may be asked to watch additional material or access resources on other platforms such as everlearner.com or Seneca. All details will be provided by the teacher.

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 ask that you liaise with Mr Edwards (tedwards@bestacademies.org.uk) regarding access to devices and work with the academy to ensure your child is fully supported.

We aim to:

- ✓ Lend laptops or tablets to students where there are not enough devices in the household
- ✓ Provide dongles to those who have no, or limited, internet connection
- ✓ Provide printed materials if the above options are not available

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Your child will receive the following provision:

- ✓ Year 11 & 13: 100% online, live lessons.
- ✓ Year 9, 10 & 12: A minimum of 50% live lessons and the remainder of their timetable set independent work.

Our remote teaching approaches include:

- ✓ Live teaching (online lessons)
- ✓ Pre-recorded teaching materials from our teachers and other national platforms such as Oak National Academy lessons, Seneca or Everlearner.
- ✓ Printed paper-based tasks produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- ✓ Online textbook referencing and other texts pupils may have at home
- ✓ Commercially available websites such as BBC Bitesize or YouTube video clips
- ✓ 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?

We expect all students, providing they are healthy, to engage in our remote learning provision. Should your child be unwell, we ask that you inform the Academy accordingly.

We encourage all parents to establish a morning routine that suits your child. We recommend students wake at a set time; have breakfast and get dressed prior to starting their learning. We recommend that every student has a dedicated working area with lots of natural light and ventilation.

We ask that you monitor their mobile phone use and ensure they are moving / stretching in between lessons. They should have plenty of water, exercise and rest.

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

Our teachers will take a register within the first 10 minutes of any live lesson. The academy will be tracking your child's engagement to these lessons twice a week. Pastoral Teams, including your child's tutor, will make contact via email or phone to offer our support if we notice your child missing a number of live lessons.

In addition, our departments continue to follow their assessment schedules. Students will submit select work for marking and feedback, complete quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms, continue to work on BTEC coursework units and contribute to online lesson discussions and groupwork. Failure to engage with tasks or meet deadlines will be highlighted again to tutors and Year teams so follow-up supportive conversations with home can take place.

We will continue to praise students who are fully engaged. Praise postcards will be posted or emailed home rewarding students for their engagement, resilience and commitment to learning during these uncertain times.

How will you assess my child's work and progress?

Feedback can take many forms and will not always mean extensive written comments for individual children.

Our teachers will adopt a wide range of feedback opportunities, including whole-class feedback, MOTE voice notes via Google Classrooms, as well as written comments for assessed pieces of work.

During live lessons verbal feedback will also be given to students; therefore, it is important that they contribute regularly to enable our teachers to feedback on student knowledge, skill and understanding of working work.

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 pupils, for example 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 in the following ways:

- ✓ We continue to offer an onsite learning provision for students who are vulnerable.
- ✓ All SEND students have an assigned Learning Support Assistant who will complete weekly check ins.
- ✓ Learning support assistants are present in student Google Classrooms and have access to all learning resources and live lessons.
- ✓ Teachers continue to differentiate by task and outcome.

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate but the majority of their peer group remains in school, our remote education approach will differ. 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?

Please be assured that your child's safety remains our primary concern and that our remote learning plans are designed to limit any disruption to your child's education as much as possible under the difficult circumstances.

Your child should continue to follow their usual school timetable and access work in the relevant Google Classroom. Their teacher will be posting appropriate work for their timetabled session. There will not be a separate remote learning curriculum; they will follow an identical curriculum to their peers remaining in the Academy and they will have access to appropriate lesson resources and support.

Where applicable, students will have access to the lesson taking place in the classroom via a Google Meet link. This hybrid version of learning is technical difficult as students at home may not be able to view all resources or teacher input, such as writings on the classroom board. Although there may not be a permanent visual, your child should be able to hear the teacher explanation and classroom discussion.