

Remote education provision: information for parents/carers

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents / carers about what to expect from remote education if local restrictions require entire cohorts 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 have two week contingency plans prepared by teaching staff for all year groups across all subjects.

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?

All young people have access to their Year group based Google classroom. Google classroom is used across the school. Literacy, numeracy and challenge slides planned for each Year group will be immediately accessible online.

This platform offers immediate access to all subjects with capacity for feedback from staff as resources are completed online.

In addition in recognition, based on pupil feedback, that some students prefer working on paper or prefer a variety a weekly resource pack will be sent out by post or delivered. For Year 11 students additional study guides / resources are available for key subjects.

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?

Reviewing our summer offer we have learnt that a focus on engagement with online learning key. We have developed literacy, numeracy and challenges that our students can engage in and achieve direct feedback on. We have also learnt that practical learning is valued and cooking and creative packs have been developed to support this area of learning.

Where a pupil is isolating we aim to offer a similar curriculum with learning activities similar to those on offer through face to face learning. Through discussion with students this offer can be adapted to meet individual needs.

Where a year group is required to isolate teachers have selected learning that lends itself best to a remote offer. For some groups and subjects this is in the form of a topic planned for later in the term, ensuring key concepts are re visited, for others activities that are designed to enrich learning have been selected and finally opportunities to revise vocabulary and or key concepts and support reading comprehension have been identified.

In making thoughtful selection and reviewing feedback with regard to what works we hope that our offer is increasingly accessible and effective.

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Remote teaching and study time each day

How long can I expect work set by the school to take my child each day?

We plan that remote education (including remote teaching and independent work) will take pupils broadly four hours per day. Within our offer we would consider online, paper based and practical learning to form a part of this offer. Through Google classroom we have immediate feedback on pupil engagement allowing for feedback to pupils and parents/ carers and problem solving as necessary.

Accessing remote education

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

We are using Google Classroom as our main platform. All students use this platform within school. On our website there is a working from home icon which offers information and support. We are offering online training sessions for parents / carers who would like additional support and we are available to resolve ICT issues within the school day. The contacts are Chris Tate or Ian Clark

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:

Google Meet can be downloaded to mobile devices including phones to support connections with staff.

Students identified anxious learners have access to 'named' laptops that afford the efficient storage of work and direct online access.

Chromebooks can be loaned from school during the period of isolation. We can arrange for these to be delivered to your home with a loan agreement to complete. Requirements for e-safety are also attached to the loan agreement and discussed with the parent. Internet provision can be requested through the government scheme. (<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/internet-access>)

Work can be scanned or photographed and returned to school through the work@themeadowsschool.info email.

Paper based resources are available and are sent out/ delivered to students with stamped addressed envelopes to support return each week.

A safe button on the school website is also available for both students inside and at home to share concerns or worries. It also contains links to urgent numbers and weblinks. Information is picked up by C Tate and S Took.

Chromebooks are set up to allow safe searching and can be monitored remotely by the Google Admin.

Students will have already signed the school Acceptable usage policy which applies to any school equipment both in school and at home.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a combination of the following approaches to provide quality remote education:

- recorded teaching video/audio recordings made our teachers
- printed paper packs produced by our teachers
- textbooks and reading books pupils sent home

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- practical activity packs
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences

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?

Setting a routine is an important supportive factor.

We understand that there are many variables at home that may make it difficult for your child to engage and we are happy to discuss with you what would work best for your child.

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

We will check on a daily basis if pupils are accessing online learning. Where engagement is a concern we will contact you to discuss how we can help.

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

We recognise that connecting with our students and providing feedback is crucial.

Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is to offer direct feedback to individual pupils working online. Feedback can take many forms, on Google slides and forms pupil responses can be given feedback directly. Quizzes are marked automatically via digital and we aim to acknowledge success by responding individually to pupils who are completing these and sharing information on the successes with others in the class. Paper based packs are marked by teachers with feedback given to pupils via email, phone or face to face on return.

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 students may struggle to engage with 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 through discussion, problem solving and offering alternative resources.

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where a pupil is isolating we aim to offer a similar curriculum with learning activities similar to those on offer through face to face learning. This is dependent on the area of study and through discussion with students this offer can be adapted to meet individual needs. We also understand that some students may be experiencing symptoms related to Covid 19 and would therefore discuss what would be possible with the remote learning offer.

If my child is not in school because they are self-isolating, how will their remote education differ from the approaches described above?

Where a pupil is self-isolating we are able to offer a range of resources to meet individual needs however we appreciate that direct teaching by a staff member that the student knows and has a positive relationship with is often the significant factor.

We will endeavour to offer Google Meets to support relational connections and to agree together with students what support they require to work from home for periods of isolation.

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