



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.

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

Our remote education offer is now designed to enable students to begin remote learning immediately. The information below about what you should expect from us is applicable from the first day of a period 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 PE, Art and Technology, students will not have access to the equipment and materials that they normally would in school. In situations such as this teachers have worked hard to design lessons and learning activities which can be completed at home without specialist equipment, whilst still developing the key knowledge and skills for that unit of work.
- Another slight difference is related to the timetable that students follow at Key Stage 3. Students in Y10 and Y11 follow their normal timetable each day, but students in Y7-9 have an alternative 'remote learning' timetable which can be viewed in the 'Learning From Home' section of the school website. By following this timetable students in Y7-9 still study the same subjects for the same number of hours each week, the only difference is the times and days that they have their lessons.

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 broadly five hours of remote learning per day. These five hours will be a mix of our three types of learning activities (further details below).

Accessing remote education

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

Our main whole school platform for students to access their remote learning is Google Classroom. All students have been given instructions about how to log in to Google Classroom using their school username and password. If your child does not know how to log into Google Classroom they should contact their form tutor immediately via email.

Different subject areas also use a variety of online platforms and websites to enhance the students' experience and enjoyment of remote learning. Examples of these are: Hegarty Maths, Educake, Seneca



Learning, ActiveLearn. All students have been given details from their subject teachers about how to log in to these various digital resources. If they are unsure how to do this, they should contact their subject teacher or their form tutor in the first instance.

Students also receive a daily email from their Raising Standards Leader which outlines their learning activities for that day.

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:

- Since the start of remote learning we have worked hard to establish which students and parents/carers require hardware (laptops) or WiFi dongles to help them access remote learning. We have already loaned laptops to many students to help them in this regard and issued WiFi dongles.
- We have recently completed another survey of students to check how many more students require help in this way. Orders have been placed for more laptops/dongles and these will start to be issued as soon as we receive them.
- If you have not completed the recent survey, but wish to request the loan of a laptop or ask for a WiFi dongle, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

How will my child be taught remotely?

Students in all our year groups will be taught remotely via a mix of our three types of lessons:

- 'Live' lessons conducted via Google Meet or Zoom
- A recorded lesson whereby students watch a recording/video of a lesson and complete work as they move through the recording. Many of these recordings have been made by St Matthew's teachers, however sometimes students will be directed to watch recorded lessons or videos from other sources, eg The Oak Academy.
- Other written work which students complete using their Knowledge Organiser or an equivalent resource. Often this work will need to be submitted either via email or by Google Classroom.

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 know that the best thing for our students in these difficult times is to try to maintain as close a routine as possible to what would happen if they were in school. That is why we expect them to complete/attend their remote learning sessions at the same times as they would do normally in school.



- We want all our students to complete their work between the usual school hours of 8.30am – 3.00pm and then have the rest of the afternoon/evening to relax.
- Parents/carers can help by encouraging students to adopt a regular routine similar to a normal school day. This should include:
 - Waking up at the same time each day, early enough to get ready and prepare for the school day
 - Eating a healthy breakfast and making sure they have a drink
- It will also be very helpful for students if parents/carers can check each morning which lessons they have for that day, and check that the student understands what they need to do for each subject.

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

Students' engagement with their five hours of learning is checked each day by teachers. This will be done either by monitoring the attendance at live lessons or by checking that the required work has been completed and returned following a recorded lesson or set written work. If we have any concerns about the engagement of your son/daughter then you will be contacted by your child's form tutor.

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

Students will receive feedback on their remote learning work in the following ways:

- All our lessons begin with retrieval practice. This ensures that students are checking their understanding of work previously studied on a daily basis.
- By attending live lessons students will have the opportunity to speak to their teachers just as they would do in the classroom in school. Teachers may well ask certain students to remain in the live lesson after other students have left in order to speak to them about their work.
- Many lessons will finish with a short, self-marking assessment such as a Google Form. This will inform the student of what they have/have not understood and will help teachers plan for the next lesson.
- Teachers will nominate certain pieces of work eg an extended piece of writing or an exam-style question as assessed pieces for students to submit. These will be marked in a more traditional way and feedback will be shared with students either verbally during a live lesson or via Google Classroom or email.



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:

- Our SEND department have been working extremely hard this year to ensure support is available for all students who require it whilst learning at home.
- Many parents/carers of students with additional needs will already have been contacted by a member of our SEND department, however if this is not the case, and you wish to request additional support, please contact Mr G Jones g.jones@smrchs.com or Mrs C Holt c.holt@smrchs.com in the first instance.

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?

When we return to a situation where the majority of students are back in school, and the only students working from home are those who have to isolate due to contact with a positive case of Covid-19, we will try as hard as possible to maintain a remote education as described above. Students who are isolating will still receive their daily email to inform them of their learning for the day, and they will still be expected to complete five hours of learning and return any work which has been set. The only difference to their remote learning provision in this instance will be a reduction in the number of live lessons. This will simply be because teachers will have less time to teach online as they will be required to teach 'face to face' in school.