Remote education provision: information for parents

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 (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 document.

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?

Immediate remote education will follow a simplified timetable of five lessons per day – all students in the year group will follow the same timetable. All learning activities will be related to the normal curriculum, but video lessons may not be provided on the first day or two – lessons may involve using other online resources.

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 may need to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, in science we may decide to deliver topics with a lower practical element remotely, rather than topics that require more specific, face-to-face, teacher input. This may result in a re-ordering of the curriculum in some areas.

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 students to follow the remote timetable and should complete approximately 5 hours of distance learning each day. Students are welcome to supplement their formal lessons with reading for pleasure and use of online platforms such as MangaHigh.

Accessing remote education

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

All distance learning tasks are set via Google Classroom and all students have been taught how to access them. You can read the guide for parents/carers here. Daily tasks are posted the night before and also emailed to parents.

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:

- School chromebooks have been made available to all students for use at home. Any family who has not yet borrowed one but now needs to can request a device by contacting the school office – office@theswanschool.org.uk
- Informed all families about the availability of free additional mobile data, specifically targeting disadvantaged families to make them aware of this scheme.
- Widened our in-school offer for 'vulnerable pupils' to include those without suitable resources or support to be able to learn effectively at home.

How will my child be taught remotely?

Where possible and appropriate, all lessons will comprise of:

- Recorded video lessons made by teachers to clearly explain/model the key concepts for the lesson and explain the task instructions.
- Deliberate practice tasks with at least one element being submitted online.
- Live support available from teachers during the lesson to answer questions to provide feedback.

In addition, learning may be supplemented using textbooks and reading books pupils have at home. Commercially available websites may be used to support the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences.

Weekly assemblies will be provided as well as regular input around the Personal Development curriculum to support children with their personal and social development, as well as their mental health at this challenging time.

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 to take part in every distance learning lesson – they will need to evidence this by completing the register at the start of the day and submitting their work for each lesson. Students should show the same dedication to their learning as they do in school – they should complete all tasks to the best of their ability, remembering that teachers are available throughout the day to help them if they get stuck.

Parents/carers can help to support their child with their distance learning by:

- Providing a suitable space to work at home
- Putting in place a structure to the day, for example fixed wake-up, learning, and break times.
- Talking to their child about what they are learning – showing an interest in school work and reminding their child about the importance of education.
- Checking that their child is working and that tasks are being completed – monitoring children's online habits is very helpful here.
- Letting the school know if they have concerns about how their child is getting on and asking for support if needed.

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

- All students must complete the online register every morning
  - Parents will be informed via automated email if their child has not registered. Please report absence in the normal way if there is a reason why your child is not able to attend lessons that day, e.g. due to illness.
- All students must submit at least one piece of work for every lesson. Completion of work will be tracked by subject teachers and raised with students. Patterns of non-completion will discussed with parents and students during fortnightly welfare calls.
- We expect students to show the same dedication to their learning as they would in school. Teachers will be monitoring the quality of work to identify any students who are not working to the best of their ability. Initially this will be addressed by subject teachers, but will also be followed up by the pastoral and senior leadership teams if it continues.
  - Students are reminded that live support is available if there is something that they do not understand – they can always get help if needed.

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

Feedback takes many forms and does 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. The most effective forms of feedback will vary between subject areas and subject leaders are given autonomy to decide on the best approaches for their area. In general, our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

- Feedback will be provided within Google Quizzes about what correct or 'model' answers are.
- Teachers will address common misconceptions about a lesson concept during the next lesson.
- Individual scores and feedback are given on selected pieces of work.
- There will be formative and summative assessment points, and re-teach opportunities, in line with the normal school cycle.

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:

- Targeting those pupils in need of additional support and inviting them to attend on-site provision.
- The Accelerated Learning team provide face-to-face support for those vulnerable students attending school.
- Delivering some remote, small-group interventions, for example for SEMH, Fresh Start and Guided Reading for targeted students.
- Prioritising vulnerable students for welfare checks – ensuring they are contacted frequently and regularly by an adult who knows them well.

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?

Lessons are filmed in school and posted on Google Classroom daily for those students who are not in school because they are self-isolating. The resources for the lesson are also included so that students can complete the same work as the students in school. Students can email their teachers for additional support.

In addition, students are encouraged to work independently on the following tasks to supplement their learning:

- Revision and self-quizzing using their knowledge organiser and quiz booklets
- Completion of home learning activities from the Reflection booklet
- Reading for pleasure for at least 30 minutes per day
- Online maths activities using MangaHigh.