

Remote Education - 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.

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

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?

Students will be set tasks via Google Classroom. These will include a mixture of PowerPoint tasks with narration, short Google Meet explanations and additional tasks for completion via Google Classroom. All students will have clear instructions on what to complete via Google Classroom. Any queries should go to loginquiries@verulamschool.co.uk

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, following the normal school timetable.

However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, it may not be possible to offer all practical subjects such as PE and technology and there may be some content that is not appropriate for remote learning if it is sensitive in nature, such as some PSHE topics.

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	1x 15 min form time per day 5x 60 min lessons per day except on games day.
Secondary school-aged pupils working towards formal qualifications this year	1x 15 min form time per day 5 x 50 min lessons per day

Accessing remote education

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

All online remote education will be via Google Classroom and Google Meet.

Teachers may also make use of other resources we have such as GCSE Pod, Kerboodle, Hegarty Maths, Educake and others.

Any login issues should be directed to loginqueries@verulamschool.co.uk

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 limited number of device available to support remote learning. If your child does not have access to a digital device, please contact your son/daughter's Head of Year who will pass this information on to the relevant school contact.

Devices will initially only be available for students in receipt of the Pupil Premium, we will be seeking to source more devices and provide these to students to ensure that all students can fully access remote learning in due course.

If you require internet access, please also contact your child's Head of Year to discuss getting online.

For access to printed copies of materials or to submit work by hand, please contact your child's subject teachers who will make arrangements via the school office.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Live teaching (online lessons) via Google Meet and Google Classroom
- recorded teaching via narrated PowerPoints printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- textbooks and reading books pupils have at home and via our ePlatform digital library service
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences, such as GCSE Pod, Educake, Kerboodle, Hegarty Maths and Lexia.

Lessons will be predominantly live teaching via Google Meet for 20-30 minutes of every 60 minute lesson with the teacher remaining online via Google Classroom to respond to student queries and support their independent study tasks.

Teachers may ask students to undertake activities from other platforms during this independent study time depending on the context of each lesson.

Some lessons may have a narrated PowerPoint or other materials set due to staff absences, illness or other circumstances.

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?

It is expected that all students participate fully in every lesson whilst working remotely at home, as per their normal school timetable. The only exception to this would be where reasonable adjustment has been made and approved by the Deputy Headteacher or SEND Co-ordinator.

It is therefore expected that parent's continue to contact school via the absence reporting line should their child be unwell and therefore unable to participate in remote learning on 01727 754101 or absence@verulam.herts.sch.uk

Parents can help support their child learning at home by encouraging them to stick to a routine and through supporting the following actions:

- Be up, suitably dressed and logged in to Google ready to learn from 8:40am.
- Have all your exercise books, pens, resources and equipment ready for your lessons.
- Make sure your laptop/digital device is charged and ready to be used for the day.
- Make sure that you know your login details for the day including Google, Kerboodle etc.
- Make sure you have plenty of water available to drink.

- Switch off your mobile phone (unless being used to access the Google Meet), TV or other distractions.
- Find a quiet location that is away from other distractions ideally at a table with a chair. Not sat in a bed or on the sofa.

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

Engagement will be monitored each day through a daily form time activity. We will also be taking registers for every lesson and sending parents an SMS message if a student has not participated in a lesson.

We will also be monitoring engagement of student through our Google Analysis software. This will show us who has been signing in to Google Meets, for how long and whether they have been using their microphone or video during the meets.

Our staff will contact you should we have a concern about your child's engagement in remote learning. If you have a concern, you can also contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year.

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:

All work will be assessed via a range of tasks set via Google Classroom or other platforms such as Kerboodle, Educake and GCSE Pod.

Teachers will provide feedback to students on assessed pieces of work only. They will make it clear which pieces of work these are and inform students in advance that it is an assessed task for which they can expect feedback.

Students will receive other feedback during the lesson when responding to questions, submitting answers or for written tasks on an ad hoc basis from each teacher.

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 would normally have smaller group sessions or one to one sessions where to work on literacy and numeracy skills will continue to have these via a member of staff via Google Meet (subject to staff availability)

Parents will also receive a weekly phone call to check on how their child is getting on with remote learning and to address any issues or concerns. Information will then be passed to teachers as appropriate to adapt teaching or provide additional support.

Students with an EHCP will also be offered a place at our Critical Worker and Vulnerable student on site provision each week which they may take up at any point and access will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

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 your child is self-isolating, they will receive access to all work via Google Classroom. This will be provided in advance of each lesson and follow their normal school timetable.

They can email their teachers with any queries they have or to seek further guidance they require and submit any work as requested.