



Remote education provision: information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to students 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.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to students at home

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

- As far as is practical we teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school. This is clearly more challenging in subjects with a high proportion of practical work eg workshop based or in PE. In these subjects we will focus more on the theory aspects and hopefully will be able to fit in the more practical aspects when students are back in school. In some subjects exam boards are amending the curriculum to assist with this eg in Product Design allowing students to produce drawings and plans and models where full scale “making” is not possible.

Core PE is an important part of the curriculum. In core PE lessons students are encouraged to exercise. Outside of this we are running a number of activities eg counting and sending in weekly steps, a weekly on-line dance activity.

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 the following number of hours each day:

In all year groups we expect students to follow their normal school day with tutor time and five lessons. While teachers are providing extension activities these are optional. We are not setting “homework” per se. Students should take short breaks in their normal Break 1 and Break 2 times and should log off at the end of the school-day. It is important that students take exercise and try to relax and engage in other interests and hobbies outside of the school-day and at weekends.

Accessing remote education

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

All students have login details for Google Classroom. This is where work is set and live lessons take place.

Staff are in school to assist with queries about logging in or if passwords need changing. Ring the school office 01525 636700 or email office@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk for assistance.

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 take the following approaches to support those students to access remote education:

We have laptops and devices that provide internet access available to lend students if you contact the school. This is essential as without this remote learning is not possible.

How will my child be taught remotely?

In all year groups and in all subjects bar core PE, students are set work every lesson through Google Classroom. In most cases this is through a live lesson, or at a minimum a live introduction to the lesson. Students are set work to complete. In some lessons teachers remain on-line to respond to questions and feedback. Sometimes a longer piece of work is set that may extend over several lessons.

Students submit work to their teacher. Normal expectations of marking and feedback apply as per the school Marking and Feedback policy albeit we acknowledge that on-line the process can take a little longer and the school is mindful not only of student well-being but also that of staff.

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 engage fully in their programme of remote learning. Where this causes difficulties we ask parents/carers to contact the school so that we can work together to resolve any difficulties. The school is monitoring student engagement and where a student does not appear to be engaging with their work we will contact home to seek to help resolve any difficulties.
- Parents/carers are asked to provide a suitable space for students to carry out their remote learning. We appreciate that this is not always easy.

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

Teachers monitor engagement of students in their classes and will follow up with parents/carers where there is a concern. Our house teams are central to this and where concerns are raised by a number of teachers the house team will contact home. In some cases where making contact with home proves difficult, we will make a home visit as necessary to follow up on any safe-guarding concerns.

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 students' work is as follows:

- Teachers provide marking and written feedback as per school policy aiming to do so in depth at around every eight lessons while light-touch feedback is provided inbetween. Some work is computer-marked eg quizzes and some self-mark activities.

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 students, for example some 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:

- Teachers seek to differentiate work and to provide additional help for individual students when in live lessons. Some students with SEN needs are able to work in school and thereby receive additional support in this way. For students working remotely at home at least weekly contact is made by a member of the SEN staff team to check on progress and to offer support. In many cases contact is twice weekly and in some cases daily.