Vandyke Upper School

Remote education provision: information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to parents, carers and students about what to expect from remote education if local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to students at home?

● A student'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.

● While we will follow the planned curriculum, slight adjustments might be made to provide topics that can be unpacked independently and supported more effectively with students.

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

● All our students have access to a Google Classroom for each of their subjects. This platform is regularly used throughout their time in school and they are familiar with how to log in and access the lessons and linked materials. This will continue to form the basis of our remote home learning offer and, as such, their education will look the same at the beginning of being sent home as it will at the end.

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?

● Within a few days our students will follow the same curriculum subjects and timings as they would were they in school. Our students will need to register in the morning between 8.45 and 9.05 within their tutor time and then follow the home learning materials as per their timetable. Lessons on Google will have the teacher, date and period indicated to make them easy to locate.

● There may, however, be certain topics or subjects for which adaptations need to be made; these adaptations may include teaching a shortened version of a unit of work and removing some of the more challenging elements such as practical work in some lessons such as DT, Catering etc. The taught curriculum in school would then adapt to focus on the content that was removed during any period of remote education so that no learning is lost.

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 same amount of hours as when they are in school, each lesson will be between 50-60 minutes.

● To facilitate this, all students' remote lessons will be mirroring the normal school day, to not only maintain a broad and balanced curriculum but to also help with emotional wellbeing.

● This will equate to approximately 5x60 minutes lessons a day. We strongly encourage students to follow our typical break and lunch timings to help break up the learning into manageable chunks.

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

● All work is set through Google classroom by teachers. Please click here for more information about Google classroom.

● All students have Gmail accounts and log in details to enable them to access the lesson and materials.

● If any parent or student has a query regarding accessing their online provision then please email our dedicated support team who will endeavour to get back to you on the same working day. This service will run Monday - Friday between 9.00am - 1.00pm for the duration of our home learning provision:

General remote learning enquiries: cookseyd@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk

If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will you support them to access remote education?

However, we recognise that some students may still not have suitable online access or equipment at home. We take the following approaches to support those students to access remote education:

● We will lend laptops to students where parents or carers have notified us that they are having difficulty accessing online work due to lack of devices. Please contact the school if you have any queries about the loan of IT devices.

● We will also lend dongles to students where parents or carers have notified us that they have difficulty accessing online work due to lack of internet connection.

● Students can submit their work to their teachers via their school google account.

● Please note that if your child has a PS4 and above, or an Xbox, they can access all of their online work. You may need to purchase a keyboard, if you do not already have one, in order to facilitate their access to school work.

How will my child be taught remotely?

As with the previous periods of remote learning our offer will continue to:

● Expect students to follow their normal timetable at home, this will ensure they have working on all subjects and have a full curriculum experience.

● The majority of lessons will be live 'synchronous' lessons and students need to attend all of these important lessons. Whilst there will be some 'asynchronous' lessons to offer variety.

● Include clear instructions for all work set, date of submission and opportunity to ask any questions if students are unsure of any piece of work set, there will be plenty of opportunities to do this in 'live' time during their live lessons.

● Offer variety – this can be PowerPoint lessons, snappy retrieval practice in the shape of a Google Form or longer pieces of work with links to videos, podcasts and blogs.

● Provide feedback on completed work - This can be acknowledgement of work received or more detailed feedback with personalised comments for certain pieces of work.

● Use self-marking retrieval quizzes to help embed prior knowledge; this will be delivered via suitable software such as Google Forms or Kahoot. We know, from experience, that students respond well to this type of work as they get instant feedback on their progress.

Code of Conduct for Video Lessons using Google Meet

- Live lessons must not be recorded, this includes both video and audio content.
- Only students registered within a class can join that lesson, no other student from another class should participate in this lesson.
- When students join the live lessons they should join with their camera off and microphones muted.
- Student cameras are to remain off at all times during the lesson and students unmute when asked to do so by the teacher to answer questions, participate in discussion etc. This allows the teacher and students to focus on one voice only and not become distracted by students speaking.
- If you wish to speak or ask a question, please do so by raising your hand in the chat function and your teacher will come straight to you.

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?

Our expectations of parents and carers are to create a positive learning environment at home by:

● Distinguishing between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life.

● Designating a working space if possible, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over.

● Creating and sticking to a routine by following the school timetable, as this is what your child is used to at school. In addition, helping them with non-academic routines such as eating breakfast at the same time each morning and making sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day.

● Sticking a timetable up on the wall so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day.

● Making time for exercise and breaks throughout the day to keep your child active. When core PE is on your child's timetable, encourage them to take part in some form of exercise. Maybe even do it with them if you are able and have time.

● Praising and rewarding them when it is clear they have put in time and effort to complete their work. This reinforces the positive culture our school is setting.

● Asking for help if you need it! For subject specific queries please contact your classroom teacher via their google email. For pastoral queries, please email your child's Head of House. We are here to support, despite not being physically present.

● Ensure working is completed. Ask your child to show you their work at the end of the school day or check their Google Classroom to see what work they have been set.

● Ensuring safe online working structures. Please remember the critical part you play as a parent/carer in keeping your child safe online

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

● Each day will start with a live register taken by your child's form tutor, starting at 8:45am and closing at 9.05am; they must then check their Google Classroom. Any absent students' names will be forwarded to the House Team to follow up.

● In addition, where a student has not engaged in a series of lessons their teacher or Head of Department will pass this through to the House Teams who in turn will phone or email to inform you and place a reminder on the subject Google classroom.

● If students have not engaged in multiple lessons this will be passed over to a member of the House Team who will contact home.

● If staff cannot contact home the Safeguard Team will be alerted and steps taken to ensure contact is made.

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. Effective feedback may be given, but is not restricted to any of the following forms:

● Whole-class feedback / comments / questions in Google Classroom stream

● Automated marking of work via digital platforms such as Google Forms and Kahoot

● Individual comments / responses from the teacher on work via Google Classroom or Google Docs/Sheets

● Comments on work via methods such as google docs using written comments or oral feedback using Google Mote

● Recorded elements within subsequent lessons which reflect on the progress of prior learning, addressing individuals or the whole class

Upon your child's return to school, we will assess using a variety of retrieval exercises to identify any significant learning gaps and adapt of teaching to close these.

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 present, the following strategies remain in place to support our students and yourselves with remote learning periods:

● Teachers will set different tasks for SEND students where appropriate.

● Teaching Assistants (TAs) call home regularly to make sure SEND pupils are engaging with online learning and explain activities.

● TAs will join the live lessons to work with students who normally receive support in school.

● TAs add literacy, numeracy, speech and language and social skills resources for identified students. This is a group of SEND students who had interventions at school

 ● Designated Teaching Assistants are available on Google Stream with classroom teachers.

● EHCP and some other SEND students have all been invited to come into school and to work with TAs in person.

● EHCP students, who do not have laptops, have a school laptop to use at home.

● EHCP reviews that were due during the lockdown will take place online or over the phone. This will be confirmed with parents via a phone call;

If you require further support, please contact our SENCO, Mrs T Beckwith: beckwitht@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk or Deputy SENCO, Mrs J Yeoman: yeomanj@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils/students need to self-isolate, but the majority of their peer group remains in school, the remote education that is provided will differ from the approach for whole groups. This is due to the challenges of teaching pupils/students 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?

- House teams notify staff via SIMS students who are absent due to COVID. Teachers will set work for the individual students via the Google Classroom. The work will cover the content that all students will be doing in school and means they will not fall behind.
- Students can access additional work via GCSEPod or BBC Bitesize for extra input if they wish once the Google Classroom tasks are completed.
- Teachers will monitor that the work set in the Google Classroom is completed by the students and will assess this work when the rest of the class' work is assessed.