

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 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.

At Great Western Academy students are used to using their laptops in school each day and to accessing Microsoft Teams for resources and for home learning tasks. This puts us at an advantage in terms of the readiness for students to access their learning at home instead.

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?

During this period it may not be possible to have 'live' teaching in place immediately. Instead teachers may set students work to complete independently. Work will be set using Microsoft Teams and will be for each lesson the student would have had if they were in school. Students should be used to accessing work in this way, but if there are any difficulties you are always welcome to contact us using office@gwacademy.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?

Our aim is to offer 'live' lessons to students as soon as that is feasible following a need to move to remote education. Students will join lessons with their normal teachers at the normal lesson time. Registers will be taken.

We will teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we will make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, more practical subjects such as Design Technology, PE, Dance and some science lessons will be adapted so that they can be delivered remotely.

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 require students to commit time as follows:

- During the school day students will need to attend on-line lessons at the same times as they would have had lessons in school. This will be 6 50-minute lessons daily, starting at 8.50am and continuing until 3.10pm, with break and lunch at the usual times.
- Staff will set home learning tasks as normal. You can therefore expect that students will be doing a similar amount of "homework" beyond their lesson times as normal.
- Enrichment activities will clearly not be able to take place during times of remote learning. This includes 'self-study', and given that many students complete a significant amount of home learning during self-study they will need to find that time at home instead. We'd advise that you consider expecting students to undertake self-study time at the same times they would if in school.

Accessing remote education

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

Students will access online learning through Microsoft Teams.

- Solutions include providing devices such as laptops or 4G access points, or in some cases agreeing that it is right for the student to be part of the small group which is supported within school.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Live teaching (online lessons). Most of our lessons will be delivered in this way.
- Recorded teaching (e.g. video/audio recordings made by teachers) supported by staff being available within the Team for students to contact them and ask for help or support. Some of our lessons will be delivered in this way.
- In a small number of cases, usually only when a member of staff is unavailable, independent work will be set within the Team for a 50-minute lesson. Even in these cases students can still message the teacher for support, though it may be that support cannot happen immediately.

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 join their lessons in line with their school timetable and we will take registers of their attendance
- We hope parents can support by providing a venue for the learning to take place and by checking, if possible, that their son or daughter is directly engaging with the lessons

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

- Given we are taking registers in each lesson we can see if students are attending. If a pattern of concern develops our pastoral team will contact home to find out why and to support as necessary.
- If a student is engaging with lessons but is not completing the work set then parents can expect contact from the relevant subject teacher. In serious cases it may be decided that when school re-opens students will need to stay late in order to complete work they have not engaged with during the period of remote education.

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

As is the case with our normal practice, 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.

You will be aware of our focus on DIRT (dedicated improvement and reflection time) so that students are provided with time and support to respond to feedback which their teacher has provided. This will continue during periods of remote learning.

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:

- Your child's key worker will keep in regular contact with you so that we can support as required.
- Where it is agreed to be beneficial to a student's progress that they join the small group of students learning on site then that will be arranged.

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?

Where only small numbers of a class are self-isolating the teacher will ensure that work is provided for them so that they do not miss the content of what is being taught in school. This work will usually be set using Microsoft Teams, but will be independent work rather than a live lesson.

Where larger numbers of a class are self-isolating – more than half – then the teacher will usually teach an online 'live lesson' to all, those present in the class and those at home.