

## Information for parents about remote education



This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to students 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 students are self-isolating, please see the final section of this page.

## The remote Curriculum : What is being 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.

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

As students begin to work from home, there will inevitably be a period of transition as they (and you as parents) familiarise themselves with how they intend to learn from home. Students will have been taught how to access the academy's website, how to use Show my Homework, Citrix and Microsoft Teams. Students will have been given guidance on the practical aspects of working from home and will already have some experiences on which they can build.

Students will also be able to access the academy's website where immediate guidance will be provided on how to approach the first two days of formal remote learning.

Initially, the academy will ensure that provision is set through the use of Show My Homework, where each curriculum area will set appropriate work in line with their curriculum plan. Show my Homework is the platform all teachers will use for the setting of work. The first day of isolation may look somewhat different to the rest of provision as teachers will be collating and assigning work to these students.

In a significant number of lessons live links are already established so students will be able to join these. Both synchronous (live lessons) and asynchronous material (pre-recorded lessons, resources etc.) may be available depending on the pathway and task being completed.

After this initial period of adjustment, students will be able to establish a more consistent way of working remotely. Inevitably, there may be organisational and technical challenges to this; students must not worry, they and you will be able to contact staff within the academy for support.

## **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?**

Students will typically follow their existing curriculum. There will be subjects in which it will not be possible to provide normal curriculum provision for students, particularly the more practical and group work elements of their learning.

Where it has not been possible to continue with the normal curriculum as specialist equipment and materials are used, alternative approaches and curriculum revisions are implemented. This is manifest in subjects such as Art, Engineering and Hospitality.

## **Remote teaching and study time each day**

### **How long can I expect work set by the academy to take my child each day?**

You should expect your child to work for a minimum of 5 hours a day online and independently.

## **Accessing remote education**

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

All resources can be accessed through the use of Show My Homework, as this is the digital platform used to inform students of the work that needs to be completed. Students may also be required to access Microsoft Teams and the academy SharePoint page which has a plethora of resources that will be used to support learning. However, this will all be linked through the Show my Homework platform as the centralised and start point of all remote learning.

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

The academy has created significant capacity to ensure that all students can access a laptop if they do not have provision. A number of students have been identified as needing further support and have been allocated a laptop or support with the internet.

There is an established loan system for any parents experiencing issues where they can temporarily obtain a laptop to support their child's remote education through contacting the academy. Information is also sent via InTouch informing parents with regards to how support can be accessed.

In the cases where further resources are needed such as in practical subjects, the academy may tailor their curriculum to ensure it is suitable to students at home.

Where workbooks are needed these are sent out via the postal system when requested. Students will also be able to access on-line materials outside of specific lesson times.

## **How will my child be taught remotely?**

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

The academy follows the same approach for all year groups, using a mixture of asynchronous and synchronous learning which will replicate students' timetables and uses a range of platforms such as:

- Microsoft Teams
- Microsoft 365
- Citrix
- Show My Homework
- SharePoint

The academy uses the on-line platforms listed above in a range of ways. The activities on the list below are examples :

1. Teams: Live: during these lessons students will be in 'live lessons' with a teacher and other members of class. This might be for an entire teaching hour or for shorter periods to enable students to work independently on tasks. This might be video/audio or audio/screen-share.
2. Teams: Streams: this is a recorded lesson or a recorded PowerPoint session that students will work through designed by teachers to help support learning.
3. The use of online learning platforms such as Oak National Academy and YouTube learning channels; staff will, at times, ask students to use recorded lessons and other learning materials

4. Departmental resources such as personalised home learning workbook provided by subjects/phase etc.
5. Curriculum based on-line resources: students will be directed to subject specific learning materials that can be used as instructed by the teacher.

It is important for parents to appreciate that not all learning will (or indeed should) be online. We fully understand that students might not have access to a computer/laptop or might have access at specific times of day.

Students will use these methods to support their learning and to ensure that a continuation of their normal curriculum takes places at all possible time. Students are not asked to complete long term projects, as work will be individually set for each lesson on the day they would normally have this lesson; this may build into part of a wider unit of work but will come with clear expectations on what needs to be done and how this can be achieved.

Remote learning at Ruskin will follow a clear pathway ensuring that new material is clearly explained allowing students to consolidate this learning in which clear feedback opportunities are provided.

## 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?**

Students are expected to engage positively with remote learning:

1. Students must engage with the remote learning curriculum every school day and continue their normal timetable.
2. There is a guide to the number of hours a student will spend in total on their learning each day (online and independently – see above).
3. Students will, therefore, not be expected to be in front of a live lesson for 5 hours each day – in any case, this practice is not educationally sound.

In supporting their child, parents/carers must appreciate that:

1. Younger students will require more support and guidance at home.
2. Students will have received guidance on approaching remote learning including on how to structure their day.
3. In an ideal world, students will have an appropriate workspace with a computer, they will also have a settled routine that fits into the academy timetable.
4. We do not live in an ideal world. A considerable degree of flexibility is required.
5. Students will inevitably feel anxious about their work and must be encouraged to contact a member of staff at the academy if they have not understood an aspect of their learning or if they are not able to access it. We have established a system that will ensure that a member of staff is always available during their scheduled lesson time should further clarity be required. This can be accessed through the use of either Microsoft Teams or Show My homework

Staff are on your side. They want the best for your child.

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

The academy will work in partnership with you to ensure that your child is engaging with the work:

1. Teachers will take registers when in live lessons, including attendance to form time, and report any ongoing absences to the pastoral team. Parents will be informed if there are concerns.
2. Teachers will set work that needs handing in. If work is not handed in, or is not of the expected standard, the usual pastoral systems are in place at either subject or year group level. Parents will be informed if there are concerns.
3. Each subject will have different requirements for the frequency of handing in work – this will be dependent on the hours a week they are studied.
4. Teachers use a wide range of assessments in a lesson to gauge whether a student has understood the work. Any immediate concerns will be addressed with the student. If there are deeper concerns, parents will be informed directly.
5. Reporting home will be maintained throughout the year and, unless there are notified, will follow the published timelines.

## **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 student work is as follows:

A wider range of assessment strategies will be used to check for understanding and generate responsive teaching. This may take the format of:

- Feedback through live lessons
- Feedback through Chat functions on Microsoft Teams
- Whole class feedback sheets
- One to one feedback through the use of Teams Chat or Show My Homework
- Microsoft Forms
- Marking of work set (Please note not all classwork will be marked and returned as we will continue to follow the academy marking policy, where possible)
- Quizzing and questioning platforms

More formal assessment of student learning takes place throughout the year and will be incorporated into remote learning.

## 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:

For students with additional needs, academy staff will liaise with families to coordinate the support required.

## Remote education for self-isolating students

Where individual students 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 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?**

The approach adopted by the academy will be broadly similar in so far as it will ensure that, where possible, students self-isolating will not have a curriculum that differs greatly from that being delivered in the academy and in many cases will still be able to access these lessons directly through Microsoft Teams.

All students will have access to the curriculum offer and will be supported with a range of resources. Whilst we know that the practical setting will change, the support and resources on offer is readily available and work completed will be reviewed by the appropriate teacher. When the student returns, further intervention is put in place, if required.