



Sandwell Academy

Remote Education Provision: Information for Parents

Overview

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 document.

The remote curriculum: what students will be taught at home

A student's first few days of being educated remotely may be different from our standard approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a longer period of remote teaching. However, it is the intention of the Academy to deliver live remote lessons via **Microsoft Teams** where possible, and on the occasions where this may not be possible, remote learning will be delivered via our **Online Curriculum**. For more information about remote learning, please visit:

www.sandwellacademy.com/page/remote-working

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

Students always have access to the Academy's **Online Curriculum**:

www.sandwellacademy.com/page/online-curriculum

Resources that accompany lessons at the Academy are uploaded to the **Online Curriculum** on a daily basis. Students always have access to learning materials on the **Online Curriculum** and at any point should onsite teaching or live remote lessons via **Microsoft Teams** not be available, students should refer back to the **Online Curriculum**.

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 at the Academy but it is necessary to make some adaptations in certain subjects, such as practical lessons in PE and science. However, wherever possible students will follow their regular timetable, which gives them a broad and balanced curriculum throughout the week.

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 live teaching and independent work) will follow the same pattern as a normal school day.

Students will follow their usual timetable and remote lesson times will be as follows:

Lesson 1a	8.30am to 9.45am
<i>Breakfast - 9.45am to 10.05am</i>	
Lesson 1b	10.10am to 11.25am
PT Time	11.35am to 11.50pm
Lesson 2a	12.00pm to 1.15pm
<i>Lunch - 1.15pm to 1.55pm</i>	
Lesson 2b	2.05pm to 3.20pm

Accessing remote education

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

Students will login into **Microsoft Teams** before 8.15am. They should follow their usual timetable and access the class (Team) that would normally be scheduled at that time. Once they are in class section, they will be directed to join the live lesson. For instruction on how to access remote learning via **Microsoft Teams**, please visit:

www.sandwellacademy.com/page/remote-working

Should it not be possible to deliver a live lesson, students will be directed to remote learning on the **Online Curriculum**. In the unlikely event, that a live lesson is not possible and links are not present directing students to resources, they are advised to go directly to the relevant subject section of the **Online Curriculum**:

www.sandwellacademy.com/page/online-curriculum

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 have a limited number of laptops available for student loans. These laptops will be loaned to students who qualify for the pupil premium grant (paid to the education provider) and who also have unsuitable ICT equipment at home to be able to access online learning (where stocks allow). We will also try to support disadvantaged sixth form students, where possible, using the discretionary bursary payment or former eligibility for the pupil premium grant as selection criteria. In rare cases, loans may be made to students not meeting the above criteria but where other exceptional circumstances warrant loan of equipment, at the Academy's discretion. Requests can be made to: dwalton@sandwellacademy.com

We have a limited number of wifi routers available for student loans, currently with data available until 31 July 2021. Routers will be loaned to students who qualify for the pupil premium grant (paid to the education provider) and who do not have a Broadband connection at home (where stocks allow). We will also try to support disadvantaged sixth form students, where possible, using the discretionary bursary payment or former eligibility for the pupil premium grant as selection criteria. Requests can be made to: dwalton@sandwellacademy.com

Parents/Carers can currently (January 2021) request more mobile data from their network provider (to allow device tethering) via the Academy's website form. We will process the requests on your behalf but cannot guarantee the network provider will uphold their limited offer. Further details are within the request form: www.sandwellacademy.com/page/mobile-device

Students unable to access the online learning offered by the Academy are at risk of falling behind in their education. In this instance, students should make use of the onsite provision in order to use an Academy PC to access their MS Teams lessons. Places can be booked using the form found here: www.sandwellacademy.com/ Should a student be unable to access digital remote learning at home nor be able to attend the Academy, they can be provided with printed materials. These will be provided in the form of paper work packs, posted out on a 2 week rotation and will follow the curriculum being delivered via MS Teams. All enquiries should be made to the relevant Head of Year.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Live remote teaching via **Microsoft Teams** (online lessons)
- The **Online Curriculum**, where accompanying lesson materials and resources are stored.
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subject topics. Some examples are: MyMaths, Mathswatch, Knowitall ninja in ICT, and Seneca in humanities, as well as the using video clips via the schools streaming system, Planet estream.
- Textbooks and reading books students have at home.

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?

Parents are asked to ensure that their child is ready and prepared to follow their normal Academy timetable, either via live remote lessons through **Microsoft Teams** or by accessing work set on the **Online Curriculum**.

All activities and homework should be completed. Requested work, can be submitted to the member of staff via **Microsoft Teams** or **OneDrive**:

www.sandwellacademy.com/page/office-365

If unsure how to submit work, please speak to the class teacher in the first instance.

Parents need to ensure that clear routines are set to support their child's engagement and that the students adhere to the standards required when accessing remote learning. Expectations for remote learning can be found at:

www.sandwellacademy.com/page/remote-working

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

Students' attendance in live remote lessons will be reported to parents through the **MyChildAtSchool (MCAS)** system in the behaviour section. For information on how to access **MCAS**, please visit:

www.sandwellacademy.com/page/mcas

Your child's teachers, Personal Tutor and Head of Year will monitor attendance and engagement and follow up any issues.

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

Assessing the progress of students is a key part of effective teaching and will take many forms. Students' progress will be assessed by their contributions to live lessons, this includes the answers they give during these sessions and the work they submit, including online forms and quizzes. Teachers may choose to set self-study tasks or homework as part of the course of learning. Students will be directed on how best to submit this work, which will then be assessed and constructive feedback given. Where possible, homework will not need to be completed online. This is in an endeavour to reduce the amount of screen-time for students.

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual students. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are also valid and effective methods, amongst many others.

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 students, for example those 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:

- Ensuring that the work is suitably differentiated by teachers to meet the needs of individual learners
- Ensuring that students have multiple channels of communication through which they can receive support from class teachers (including email and **Microsoft Teams**).
- Ensuring that students are made aware of assistive software to allow greater access to work (including Immersive Reader).
- Ensuring that teachers and Personal Tutors promptly identify students who are not engaging or struggling to engage in remote learning in order to provide additional guidance.
- Students will still have access to their learning mentors. Weekly phone calls will be made to the most vulnerable to ensure engagement and wellbeing.

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 the majority of your child's class is isolating, then the teacher in school will broadcast the lesson live via **Microsoft Teams** whilst also teaching it to the those students in school.

If your child is one of only a few students isolating, then they should access the resources for each of their lessons via the **Online Curriculum**.

Microsoft Teams

www.sandwellacademy.com/page/remote-working

Online Curriculum:

www.sandwellacademy.com/page/online-curriculum