

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.

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?

The academy intends to immediately switch to the use of Microsoft Teams as described below. However, should this not be possible for any reason in the event of the academy being closed to year group(s) we will signpost students to independent activities to complete using online platforms such as Oak National Academy, Schoology, MathsWatch and GCSE Pod. Parents and carers will be advised at the time of closure as to where students should look online for details.

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 in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects.

At Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) we will deliver live online lessons via Microsoft Teams for lessons in English, Maths, Science, Languages, Jump (except Year 9), Geography, History and Ethics. For other subjects, independent assignments would be set on Microsoft Teams for students to complete as standard, although live lessons may occasionally be offered.

At Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) we will deliver live online lessons via Microsoft Teams for all lessons in all subjects except Learning4Life (inc core Computing), core PE and Car Mechanics. Some vocational courses may not run every lesson live - in this case assignments will be set.

For Sixth Form students, live lessons will take place for all subjects and all lessons. On occasion (and particularly for practical elements of vocational courses), not every lesson may be live - in this case assignments will be set.

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 pupils broadly the following number of hours each day:

Years 7 to 11: the combination of live lessons and independent assignments should take up 5 hours.

Sixth Form: the combination of live lessons and independent work should take up at least 4 hours a day, and in many cases 5 hours. However, there will inevitably be some discrepancies within this if students have a “light” day on their standard timetable with only one or two lessons.

Accessing remote education

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

Our key online platform will be Microsoft Teams, for which all students have their own username and password (which is the same as both their network logon and email account). Through our Microsoft 365 subscription students also have access to Word, Excel and PowerPoint online apps.

Students may also need to access other online resources including Schoology (all years), Go4Schools (all years), MathsWatch (Years 7 to 11), GCSE Pod (Years 10 and 11).

If your child cannot access any of these platforms please contact Anthony Ward, Director of School Strategic Operations anthony.ward@astreastivo.org

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

We will endeavour to ensure that all families have access to a laptop or tablet within the home. We are also able to lend dongles to enable internet connectivity for those families

without WiFi. If you require assistance then please contact Anthony Ward, Director of School Strategic Operations anthony.ward@astreastivo.org

If these options have been exhausted, then we will endeavour to arrange for students to be accommodated in school if possible dependent on circumstances, or for printed materials to be sent home.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Primarily, we will use Microsoft Teams for live online lessons and setting of independent assignments (as described above).

Teachers may then signpost students to a range of other resources such as:

Other online platforms to which the school has a subscription, including GCSE Pod and MathsWatch

Freely available online resources such as Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize

Textbooks and other materials that students normally have access to at home (for example, GCSE revision guides).

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 students to attend all live online lessons and complete assignments on time as directed by staff. Live sessions will take place for subjects as described above, and typically follow the times of the normal school day.

We would ask for parents and carers help and support to ensure that their child has an appropriate quiet space to work, preferable with a desk.

Where two or more siblings are sharing a laptop, parents and carers should note that Microsoft Teams can be accessed through a smartphone, tablet etc. If you still have any concerns then please contact anthony.ward@astreastivo.org

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

Teachers will be asked to complete a register for every live online lesson. These will be checked regularly by pastoral staff, who will contact families where they have a concern, including in case of students missing multiple live online lessons. Contact will be made by

either email or telephone, and we would ask for parents and carers support in engaging with the school to resolve any issues.

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 pupil work is as follows:

Students in every subject will continue to receive feedback in line with the academy's marking, assessment and feedback policy. The frequency of feedback will vary according to the curriculum time given to the subject, but typically will be around every ten lessons.

Students may receive personalised feedback (written comments from a teacher), automated feedback (from quizzes marked by online software) or whole class feedback (given verbally by the teacher having reviewed the work produced).

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:

Our SEND team will contact families of students with an EHCP to discuss their needs and what support the academy and external professionals can offer. This may include students having time remotely with Teaching Assistants or (if permitted under circumstances at the time) working on academy site.

Our SEND and pastoral teams will also contact families with other particular needs (for example those with children known to be vulnerable).

Any family can contact their child's form tutors, Head of Year or Student Support Assistant at any time should they need help or support.

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 individual students are self-isolating, we will not typically be able to provide online live lessons.

However, teaching staff will set bespoke assignments that closely follow the same curriculum as that being taught in school. These will typically be set using Go4Schools or Microsoft Teams and will be set for all subjects the student is missing. The amount of work set will match the number of lessons the student misses.

Where work would normally receive feedback in class, the subject teacher will ask that it be sent to them in order that feedback can still be given. Students (or parents) should not hesitate to contact teachers should they be uncertain about completing an assignment.

The pastoral team (Head of Year or Student Support Assistant) should also be contacted to discuss any concerns, queries or support required.