

Remote education provision: information for parents

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 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?

Students will be expected to maintain the same school day as they would during normal face to face learning. Teachers will set work in one of two ways:

- 1) On the day that a lesson is due to take place.
- 2) At the beginning of the week.

Students will access the set work via Teams, in the relevant class. They must follow the instructions to complete work in their exercise books or online as directed. Their teacher will be available on Teams during the time the normal lesson would take place, thus allowing your child to seek help.

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 provide the same curriculum coverage remotely, as we do in school. As there are some differences between face to face and remote learning, teachers may make some of the following adaptations:

- As the opportunities for discussion and debate are limited, lessons may involve more independent reading;
- Instructions will be provided via voiceovers on PowerPoint, or a recorded lesson on Stream;
- Teachers may record demonstrations;
- Students may be required to take online quizzes more frequently so teachers can gather feedback.

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 students will follow the timetabled school day in order to manage their workload and maintain a healthy routine. The school day may be reinforced with supplementary tasks that would ordinarily be set as home learning. Parents should ensure that students take a break between the normal school day, and completing these supplementary tasks.

Accessing remote education

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

Students will access set work via Teams on Microsoft 365. Their username will take the format: xxxx@dwhs.co.uk, and their password will be the same as their network logon. Work will be set in the relevant classes, and found on the assignments tab. There may be additional messages and instructions in the class's channels.

In addition to this, students may need to access:

- Educake
- GCSEPod
- Mathswatch

If a student is having a problem with accessing any of the systems, please contact the school office and leave a message indicating the name and tutor group of the student, and which system they cannot access. A member of IT support will revert to you with the required credentials.

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 students may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those students to access remote education:

- A loan device and/or hotspot where a home does not have a computer or internet access;
- Pre-printed booklets and textbooks for subject areas where appropriate;
- Identified students are asked to attend school in order to access support;
- Where circumstances do not permit the above, work will be printed/photocopied and posted home.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a combination of the following approaches to provide high quality explanations to teach students remotely:

- Live lessons on Microsoft Teams;
- Independent work set via the assignments tab;
- Recordings of lessons, explanations and demonstrations on Stream;
- Use of GCSEPod to provide structured content relevant to exam specifications;
- Clear links to curated material (in textbooks or online) that support independent reading and study.

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?

As discussed above, students are expected to follow the timings of the normal school day. This is to ensure that they are accessing their teacher's help via a live lesson or chat on Teams in a timely manner.

We are conscious that there may be a limited number of devices available in a household being shared between students. To anticipate for these cases, teachers will set a range of on and offline tasks so students can plan to share access.

Finally, a weekly assembly will be posted for students to access in order to take part in the pastoral and house systems.

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

At Dormers Wells High School we believe that assessment should be formative and used to inform learning; effective assessment and marking of work are fundamental to successful learning and teaching and all assessment information should be used formatively.

Assessment will take place across all subjects but will vary in the manner it is set for example:

- Student work returned on assignments in Microsoft Teams, submitted as electronic documents or photographs of written work;
- Quizzes and tests on Microsoft Forms, or quizzes on other platforms that we use;
- Comments on electronic portfolios and extended projects for specific subjects.

Where a student is showing concern, a phone call may be placed by a subject teacher, their form tutor or Year Leader.

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 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 a manner commensurate with the student's specific needs.

Where appropriate, students may be asked to attend school in order to access support. Students who receive small group intervention for Maths, literacy or other reasons may continue to receive this via live-lessons. Students who receive one to ones may be invited to weekly tutorials with support staff to help them with planning their work. Finally, teachers will create a private channel in their classes so students can ask for individual support directly from their subject teachers.

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?

Self-isolating students will need to access Teams in order to collect resources for the lesson being delivered. They will need to complete the set work and share evidence of completion with their teacher. Where appropriate, and teacher may run a live lesson via Teams during the timetable session, and the student will be asked to join the class digitally.