Remote education provision

Information for Parents and Carers

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents or carers about what to expect from remote education at The Oldershaw Academy if local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home.

The Oldershaw Academy is committed to providing pupils with activities and resources that will continue to support their learning during any period of enforced absence. Whilst we recognise the challenges that working at home presents for young people and their parents and carers, it is vital that pupils continue with their studies to ensure impact on learning is minimised.

For details of what to expect where individual pupils are self-isolating, please see the final section of this page.

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

Your child can expect to access work through Microsoft Teams, which is now an integral element of remote teaching and learning at Oldershaw.

If you have informed us that your child requires printed resources due to limited access to the Internet/technology at home, your child can expect work packs to be ready for collection from the main school office within 24 hours of being sent home.

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. We also encourage all of our students to engage in other equally meaningful and ambitious work outside our normal curriculum to further explore and develop their knowledge and skills.

We have needed to make some adaptations in some practical subjects:

- In Art, there has been a slight change in order of curriculum delivery for year 7 and 8 learners so as not to disadvantage learners who do not have access at home to appropriate equipment.
- In Computing, some areas of the curriculum that require specialist computer software will be adapted to feature Internet-based alternatives wherever possible.
- In Design Technology, projects have been adapted to place more emphasis on design processes and theory to prevent a lack of access to equipment and materials at home from being a barrier to learning.
- In Food Technology, pupils will continue to learn about food preparation and nutrition, however there will be no requirement for pupils to cook at home. Of course, if pupils are able to engage in cooking with parental support, we will encourage this.
- In Music, there will be greater focus on listening and appraising tasks, contextual learning and music theory for year 7 and 8 to ensure the subject is still fully accessible to those

without musical instruments at home. We have also invested in new internet-based resources to make the learning as fun and practical as possible.

- In PE, practical lessons will involve a range of physical tasks based on health and well-being, and maintaining fitness levels whilst at home.
- In Science, some areas of the curriculum involve pupils conducting experiments. Although we have made some adaptations to focus more on non-practical aspects, students will be directed to high quality video clips of practical experiments when required.

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 all pupils to follow their normal timetable during any period of remote education. This equates to over 5 hours of remote teaching and study time each day, which exceeds the minimum expectations from the Department for Education.

Accessing remote education

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

The link below can be used to access Microsoft Teams through your web browser:

https://teams.microsoft.com/start

Alternatively, Microsoft Teams can be downloaded and installed as a desktop or mobile app:

https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/download-app

Each child has a username and password to gain access to Teams. If details are required, please call the school office on 0151 638 2800, or contact your child's assistant progress leader directly:

Password Reset Contact List
Download (pdf)

We have produced a quick guide to Microsoft Teams to help you get started:

Quick Guide to Microsoft Teams
Download (pdf)

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:

- laptops are provided to pupils as and when we are able to supply. You will appreciate that the demand for laptops is high and we are working extremely hard to provide one to every pupil in need. If you require a laptop, contact your child's assistant progress leader.

- we have a limited number of 'dongles' that can provide an internet connection for access to our remote education provision. If your child does not have an internet connection at home, please contact your child's assistant progress leader using the details above, so that we can work with you to find a solution.

- printed materials are available for pupils who do not have online or digital access. Printed materials can be collected from the main reception area outside the school office. Contact your child's assistant progress leader as above, and they will ensure that your requirements are met.

- the Department for Education is running a scheme that temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted. At present, only certain mobile networks with their own eligibility criteria are included; please contact us if your network is not listed within our consent form (below) but you require assistance in order to complete online learning. We have sent out a **Data Increase Request & Consent Form** to all parents and carers to allow you to request as soon as possible. The link to the form is also here:

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- live teaching (online lessons)

- recorded teaching (e.g. video/audio recordings made by teachers, Oak National Academy lessons, etc.)

- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets, etc.)

- textbooks and reading books pupils have at home

- websites/apps supporting the teaching of specific subjects, including video/audio clips (e.g. BBC Bitesize, Seneca Learning, Tassomai, etc.)

- educational TV programmes (e.g. Bitesize Daily secondary shows)

- long-term project work and/or internet research activities (over-reliance on these approaches will be avoided)

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 your child to be ready to learn at 8.30am each morning. Your child's form tutor will be ready to register your child online through a live meeting on Microsoft Teams, so it is important that they are punctual. The registration period lasts 30 minutes and your child's form tutor will use the time to relay any important messages, address any concerns or answer questions that your child may have, and may set tasks relating to our in-school Accelerated Reader and PSHE programmes.

From 9am, your child is expected to fully engage in learning for rest of the school day. Your child will follow their normal timetable, by visiting the relevant class team at each lesson time, which are as follows:

- Form registration – 8.30am to 9am
- Period 1 – 9am to 9.45am
- Period 2 – 9.45am to 10.30am
- Period 3 – 10.50am to 11.35am
- Period 4 – 11.35am to 12.20am
- Period 5 – 1.05pm to 1.55pm
- Period 6 – 1.55pm to 2.45pm
- Period 7 – 3pm to 3.45pm (exam year groups only, as required)

We recognise that working from home presents challenges for many families and we are here to support you during these difficult times. We strongly recommend that you establish daily routines to support your child's education. Following our normal school timetable will help you to do this. You may also find the following information useful:

- Designate a quiet, comfortable learning space for your child, if possible
- Encourage your child to be organised and keep mobile devices charged for learning
- Make sure your child has the necessary equipment/materials to complete work
- Provide healthy snacks and water to keep the mind active and alert
- Regularly check-in on your child to make sure they are engaged and avoiding distractions

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

All your child's digital activity within Teams (e.g. attending a meeting, viewing an assignment, sending a chat message, etc.) is recorded and used in analysing your child's engagement in learning throughout the day.

As previously mentioned, your child will be registered by their form tutor during a Teams meeting starting at 8.30am each morning. If your child does not attend the registration, the form tutor will contact your child by sending a 'Chat' message through Teams. If the same happens the next day, another 'Chat' message will be sent and you will receive an email indicating our concern. If absence continues, you can expect to receive a phone call, initially by the form tutor, followed by your child's progress leader/assistant progress leader. Persistent absence will result in a home visit and referral to our designated lead safeguarding officer.

Teachers will also monitor your child's digital activity within Teams. If your child does not attend a lesson, the teacher will contact your child by sending a 'Chat' message through Teams. Further instances of disengagement will be reported to your child's form tutor, who will follow the procedure as described above.

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:

- teachers will mostly provide feedback during lessons using chat/audio/video facilities to enable learners to make improvements to their work 'on the fly'
- teachers will may use the 'feedback' feature within Teams Assignments
- teachers may use software-specific features within documents, such as 'comments' and 'sticky notes', to provide feedback
- teachers may share whole-class feedback forms that highlight common strengths and weaknesses

If your child is using paper-based work packs, completed work can be returned to school and deposited in the 'Returned Work' containers in the main reception area of school. Teachers will provide feedback to your child on their return to school. Please ensure all work is clearly labelled with your child's name, year group, teacher's name and subject.

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:

- every pupil with an EHCP will have dedicated support by a Curriculum Support Worker during their online lessons
- Curriculum Support Workers that usually support SEND learners in the classroom will attend online lessons to ensure support continues during remote education
- teachers will use a range of teaching strategies to support SEND learners remotely

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?

During a period of self-isolation, your child can expect to see details of classwork in the 'Posts' section for each class team that they are a member of. Homework that is set can be found in the 'Assignments' section of each class team. Your child can use the 'Chat' feature in Microsoft Teams to ask any questions about the work set, and their teachers will endeavour to provide a response around their normal teaching timetable.