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RICHARD HUISH



The Taunton Academy

Remote education provision

Information for parents

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 whilst the national lockdown is in force.

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?

In the first few days of remote provision, students will, as a minimum, have work set on the ClassCharts app from all the subjects on their timetable. Work provided will amount to at least four hours of work.

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?

Yes, we teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate.

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:

Secondary school-aged pupils not working towards formal qualifications this year	Approximately four hours of learning a day
Secondary school-aged pupils working towards formal qualifications this year	At least four hours of learning a day, but often more.

Accessing remote education

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

- Live lessons will be accessed via Teams, on a one-week timetable which has been provided to each child. There will be live lessons each day, lasting at least 30 minutes each.
- Each live lesson will be followed by a longer task which should take students an hour to complete. These tasks will be made available on ClassCharts.

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 have provided laptops and support with internet connections to many of our students who were experiencing difficulties at home.
- If your child is still struggling to access their remote learning, please contact the Head of Year who will do their best to help you.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Live lessons on Microsoft Teams three times a day, according to a one week timetable shared with students. These live lessons will provide structure to the day, encouragement, deliver content, and explain the tasks set.
- Tasks to accompany each live lesson will be set on ClassCharts, with deadlines for submission clearly indicated.
- We provide a range of links to other resources including Oak National Academy and other remote educational resources.

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 all students to attend all online lessons where possible, though we do understand some of the pressures experienced in homes during lockdown.
- We would hope that parents and carers would support their children to complete the tasks set on ClassCharts even if their child was unable to attend a specific lesson.
- It is also important to ensure that students get a break from screen time, and get some exercise and fresh air daily.

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

- Every day, we take registers during live lessons to monitor attendance. Heads of Year make contact home as appropriate when we are concerned about attendance to live lessons.
- We monitor students submitting their work to their teachers, and we make contact home if a student is persistently struggling to send their work in remotely to their teachers.

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:

- Approaches to weekly feedback will vary. Some subjects will run online quizzes and tests, so students will see instantly how they scored.
- All subjects will give verbal feedback weekly to students in lessons, referring to what went well in previous tasks, and what needs to be done to further improve.
- Every six lessons for a particular subject, students will receive personalised feedback from their teacher about their progress.

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:

In this section, please set out briefly:

- Regular contact is made with the families of vulnerable students.
- Many vulnerable students are coming into school to access support from our Inclusion Team.
- Guidance is provided to staff on making every effort to ensure remote learning is accessible and appropriate for students with SEND.
- Parents with concerns about how SEND students are accessing remote learning should make contact with our SENDCo, Karen Mellish
kmellish@thetauntonacademy.com