

Hinchingsbrooke School

Remote Education Provision from January 2021

Updated 14 January 2021

This information is intended to clarify the school's remote education offer, where pupils are required to remain at home. The provision of remote education is intended to be an evolving offer, so this information will be updated regularly to reflect our school's own learning as time passes.

The curriculum

What will the remote education curriculum look like?

Our aim is to provide the same curriculum remotely as we do in school. For example, if students were studying algebra in maths, Shakespeare in English and coastal erosion in Geography before lockdown, we would expect that they will continue to study those things. Our approach is to teach the same curriculum wherever possible and appropriate.

There are some exceptions to the same-curriculum approach:

- Core PE lessons and PSHCE lessons will not be taught
- In some subjects with a large practical element – Art, Food Technology, Design Technology and so on – teachers have to adapt the curriculum to fit the context

Remote teaching and study time each day

Students are expected to follow their usual school timetable, except for Core PE and PSHCE lessons, which are not taking place during lockdown. For example, if a student's timetable has English Period 1, Maths Period 2 and History Period 3, they should do English, Maths and History at these times.

This means students will be working for around 5 hours per day.

Accessing remote education

The school uses Microsoft Teams for live teaching and 'Doodle' for other work. A small number of subjects, such as Computing, use Google Classroom.

We are committed to supporting families for whom access to digital devices is an issue and we have given out around 100 devices to families as of January 2021. We regularly ask parents to tell us if they need a device and we are committed to providing one for every child that needs one, although we are still some way off being able to guarantee 1-to-1 devices for all students.

Where the internet connection is the issue, we have issued dongles to families.

How is remote teaching done?

The significant majority of lessons include a live element. This involves teachers inviting their class to participate in the lesson via Microsoft Teams. In some lessons, this may involve the first part of the lesson being live, after which the teacher sets an extended task; in other lessons, the whole of the lesson may be live; in other lessons, the teacher may have set an extended piece of work at the end of the previous live lesson, that the students are getting on with independently, and this might be followed by a live Q and A session in the next live lesson. Some subjects, such as Art, will have a greater proportion of project-style work than others.

Student engagement

Students are expected to attend all lessons, as per teachers' instructions. To support this, teachers are keeping a register for all live lessons, and the school's pastoral team are following up with students who are not engaging. The pastoral team will contact students and their parents where there are any concerns.

Contacting us if there are issues

Parents and students themselves are invited to contact staff if there are any concerns. Form tutors, Student Support officers, safeguarding staff, Heads of Year etc are all working as usual and welcome contact. The best way to contact staff is by email in the first instance; this is often followed up by telephone.

Assessing students' work and progress

All subjects have policies that set out how often they formally assess work and the sort of feedback that they will give; there is typically at least one formal assessment per half-term, with teacher feedback. Although designed for in-school teaching, departments will be setting tasks and tests that enable them to meet this policy during lockdown.

Teachers are also encouraged to use a variety of techniques during their live-teaching lessons that enable them to provide students with both individual and class feedback. Quizzes and surveys, for example, and students holding their whiteboards up to the camera, so that the teacher can see what they have written, are examples of ways in which remote feedback can be given. Students can also use the 'chat' function on Teams to ask questions during lessons.

Additional support for students with special needs

Students with significant SEND issues are encouraged to attend school as part of the provision for Key Worker and Vulnerable students in school. Teaching assistants are in school and alongside other staff are available to help students.

The SEND team and the Safeguarding and Pastoral teams are also working closely with families whose children are working from home.

Remote education for self-isolating students

Self-isolating students should access their lessons in the same way as all other students who are working from home.