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## 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 where national or 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.

During the period of national lockdown, primary, secondary, alternative provision and special schools will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers only (recognising that the characteristics of the cohorts in special schools and alternative provision will mean these settings continue to offer face to face provision for all pupils, where appropriate). All other pupils should receive remote education. Pupils who are self-isolating should not attend school. Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils are also advised not to attend school.

**Links Academy will remain open and continue to follow the government guidance in relation to PRU's remaining open for vulnerable students. We believe that direct face to face teaching is the most beneficial for our students and we will continue to provide this provision whilst adhering to government guidance relating to Covid -19.**

## **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.

At Links Academy we will offer access to a personalised curriculum remotely wherever possible and appropriate. Students will be able to access work from all taught subjects.

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

In the first instance students will be sent home with a personalised pack of work. The packs have already been created and are updated on a weekly basis with all subject staff.

There is enough work in the pack to last 10 days at which point a Pastoral Leader will have been to see the student to pick up the work done and drop off a new pack.

## **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. For example, it will not be possible to do the practical elements of construction at home.

## **Remote teaching and study time each day**

### **How long can I expect work set by the school to take my child each day?**

The remote education provided should be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school and will include both recorded or live direct teaching time, and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently. The amount of remote education provided should be, as a minimum:

Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger children  
Key Stage 2: 4 hours a day  
Key Stages 3 and 4: 5 hours a day

<b>Key Stage 2</b>	30 minutes daily of Literacy and Numeracy alongside 30 minutes for Science and Topic.
<b>Key Stage 3 and 4</b>	Ideally we would anticipate each student spending between 40-60 minutes daily on each subject provided. This could be a 20 minute interaction with a subject teacher followed by 30 minutes to complete tasks independently

## Accessing remote education

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

Remote learning links are listed below with an explanation of how they can be used to support and enhance learning: [Google Classroom](#) is a platform that allows teachers to upload lesson resources, share articles and set tasks. Google Classroom areas are subject and class specific. All applicable materials that support learners at Links are able to be shared via this platform.

[GCSEPod](#) is an online revision website that has thousands of 'pods' that students can watch, listen to and test themselves on all GCSE subjects studied. Students in all year groups can access the content and students who have not been onto the system should click on 'New Here? Get Started' on the menu screen.

The [Oak Academy website](#) has a range of links, lessons and learning ideas for a range of subjects and is frequently updated. This is the recommended starting point for remote provision from the Department of Education and offers over 10,000 lessons made by teachers for use up to Year 11.

[BBC Bitesize](#) is an online revision, information and examination preparation resource website made by the BBC. There are KS3, GCSE and Post 16 sections available on the website as well as other pertinent information and content (including Careers).

### 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:

Students who cannot access digital or online learning will be provided with personalised work packs. These will be hand delivered by school staff and whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines.

The students will then have a telephone conversation with each subject teacher to talk through the work delivered and offer advice, support and answer any queries or clarify tasks. Students will be contacted daily by at least one subject teacher to see how they are progressing with their work.

Work will be collected by staff on a weekly basis so marking can occur, feedback provided and to be shared over the telephone and new work to be re-delivered.

### How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Recorded teaching (e.g., video/audio recordings made by teacher)
- Functional skills log in accounts for KS4 students
- Printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- Textbooks and reading books pupils have at home
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences (see above)

## 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 ask that providing a quiet work space for the student to be able to complete tasks/activities
- Inform the school if your child is finding it difficult or not completing the work so we can support
- Any concerns can be directed to the following staff who are acting as home learning coordinators

- St Albans Gemma Nash [gnash@linksacademy.herts.sch.uk](mailto:gnash@linksacademy.herts.sch.uk)
- Hatfield Ben Rice [brice@linksacademy.herts.sch.uk](mailto:brice@linksacademy.herts.sch.uk)

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

Staff will make contact daily to check how students are managing the workload at home and if there are specific subject concerns. Any individual subject concerns will be referred to subject specific staff who can then call separately to work with the student on any issues.

If there are any major concerns with how students are connecting with the work set then parents will be contacted to discuss possible strategies to re-engage with the learning. As the students that attend Links have had negative experiences with learning staff are in regular contact with parents in normal times and this level of communication will continue.

There will be welfare calls every ten days from Pastoral Leaders to check how students are coping with the pandemic and discuss any anxieties or wider issues that young people may be struggling with.

## **How will you assess my child's work and progress?**

Work will be collected weekly or at 10 day welfare checks when staff will mark and provide feedback setting work on the back of what has been completed. We will use the assessment mechanisms already in place within the school to assess the students progress taking all mitigating factors into account.

## **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:

- Clear concise instructions and manageable task/activities
- Support provided to parents/carers as and when required. This could be in the form of home visits or telephone conversations
- Access to Healthy Lifestyles lead
- Access to Wellbeing Practitioner either virtually or through telephone communication

## **Remote education for self-isolating pupils**

### **If my child is not in school because they are self-isolating, how will their remote education differ from the approaches described above?**

As the Links Academy takes a personalised approach to the students learning if a young person is self isolating their provision will remain as described in previous sections of this document.

