

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.

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?

We use an online platform called Teams, which we use routinely for lessons. Students will be familiar with this platform and will know how to sign on, although they can ask for help if they have difficulty. They will find activities from previous lessons including homework and revision. Additionally, students are able to access a variety of websites which the school subscribes to such as GCSEPod and My Maths which are integrated into our programmes of learning. Students can also access a number of free resources such as Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize to carry out independent learning.

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 may need to make some adaptations in some subjects so that lessons will work more successfully in a home setting. For example, in art and design teachers may set more research-based tasks or semi-practical tasks. In PE, students are encouraged to stay active through 'The Castle Rock Continuous Challenge'. Students are encouraged to walk, run, cycle, row or even scoot as far as they can and to record their distances.

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:

Key Stage 3 & 4	Students follow their in-school timetable. 5 hours of learning is set daily. This is to ensure that good progress is made against curriculum objectives and that students continue to access a broad and balanced learning experience.
Key stage 5	Students follow their in-school timetable. Students have 5 hours of taught lessons per A level subject per week. Additional tasks are set for completion as home work in line with our assessment policy. A level student should expect to study an additional 4 hours independently each week.

Accessing remote education

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

Students in all years will access their online remote education through the Teams platform. All students have been issued with username and passwords. Students can access this through the school website.

Support with accessing and using this platform is available to students, parents and carers on the school website under the home learning tab. If students/parents require further technical/academic assistance they are encouraged to send an email to a dedicated address: homelearning@castlerocksch.uk. All queries are then directed to the correct person to provide a timely response. Due to remote working, this enables us to meet the needs of our students and parents in the most efficient and effective way. If necessary, telephone support can be provided.

Teachers will set, review and provide feedback on work through Teams directly to students. Subject teachers will set work either at the beginning of the week or in line with student timetables. Students are encouraged to follow their in-school timetable to structure their learning and their time. Teachers will choose and reference digital resources daily such as those mentioned above, as they are matched to our current curriculum models and their websites provide short video lessons which are 15-20 minutes long, each ending with suggested follow-up tasks.

Students will remain in contact with their teachers either through Teams or via teacher email addresses. All teacher email addresses can be located on the website (these are password protected). Parents can also contact their child's teacher via email for subject specific support.

Each morning we provide a 'live', interactive session for each student with their tutor at the same time as this would occur in school. The purpose of this session is to help students continue to feel connected to the school, their teachers and their classmates. Students can use this session to let their teacher know if they need any help or support. We will also run other live sessions such as virtual assemblies and information sessions.

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:

- Parents/ students are encouraged to access online learning and could use a number of devices including smart phones, tablets, laptops and computer games consoles. Guidance on how to access Teams on these devices can be found on the website.
- Due to regularly changing circumstances in families, we ask parents to inform us if they do not have digital and online access at home. Parents are encouraged to contact either the main office or use the email address outlined above.
- The school will then make contact with the parents to ascertain more about the individual circumstances and discuss how they may find ways to gain access, whether the need is with a device or for internet access. For example, some mobile phone providers will provide free data or wireless access and we can connect parents with a local charity which offers donated devices to families who need them
- In exceptional circumstances, based on a child's needs, the school can provide printed work. Please discuss this with the school.
- Completed work can be 'turned in' on the Teams platform. Any work which has been completed on paper can be photographed and uploaded, for example by using the Notes app on smartphones. Guidance on how to 'turn in' work can be found on the school website.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Recorded teaching using online platforms such as Oak National Academy, GCSEpod and MyMaths.
- Video and audio recordings made by our teachers.
- 'Live lessons' (video and audio) that are recorded and hence can be accessed later, especially if families have to share devices at home.
- Printed paper packs for students with particular needs which means they are unable to access online learning produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)

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?

- Engagement in home learning is just as important as learning based at school. Similarly, if children are unwell, then we would not expect them to engage fully in home learning. Please inform the main office if your child is unwell.
- At Key Stage 4 and 5 students need to catch up with any missed learning so as to cover exam specifications. Teachers can advise students how best to do this. Wherever possible KS3 students are also encouraged to catch up.
- Students are required to turn in their work by the required deadline as stated on the subject assignment.
- Students should follow their daily 'in-school' timetables as closely as possible and complete their work on time. We recognise that home learning can take longer and therefore teachers are planning what they think is the appropriate amount.
- We appreciate that all parents and carers have their own individual circumstances and some will have more capacity to provide support than others. Wherever possible we ask that parents:
 - Check daily that their child is completing and submitting the work to their teachers.
 - Encourage their child to take responsibility for their learning and make direct contact with their class teachers to access any additional support required to complete learning tasks.
 - Ensure that their child attends their 'live' tutor session daily.

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

- Throughout the day, (around teaching schedules and meetings) teachers will review work which has been uploaded and provide timely feedback.
- The school will assess whether students are completing work and accessing learning. We will contact parents by text message or directly via a telephone call if we are concerned and to support parents with their children's learning.
- We operate parents' consultation and information evenings using a virtual platform called SchoolCloud. Parents can meet their child's teachers in this way in a similar way to a conventional parents' evening.

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:

Please note due to the diversity of subjects and qualification demands teachers will be opting to use the most effective methods to assess and feedback on student work that they deem appropriate. This will look different in different subjects.

- Students will receive timely feedback on their work 'turned in' to their subject teachers via Teams.
- Where students have not completed tasks sufficiently well, teachers will reset the work and expect it to be completed.
- Staff will provide more comprehensive comments, encouragement and indicate next steps following more substantial pieces of work carried out independently.
- Students will be encouraged to edit and improve their work where necessary and turn this back in.
- Staff in some lessons will provide answers to questions to facilitate self-assessment.
- Whole class feedback might be used following a whole-class assessed task.
- Staff will also monitor progress of students through assignments set on platforms such as GCSEPod and ActiveLearn. If these are multiple choice these are marked automatically. If questions require a written response the teacher can access these to mark and will provide feedback on GCSEPod.

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:

Additional support for pupils with SEND

How will you work with me to help my child who needs additional support from adults at home to access remote education?

- All of our students with Education, Health and Care plans are invited to attend school to continue to access the support as laid out in their personalised plan. Any of our students who are not attending will be contacted at least twice weekly by a member of the SEND team. The purpose of this call is to check in and support with any queries that you or your child may have and to offer advice and support.
- There are a number of strategies which parents of students with SEND may find particularly helpful. For example if your child uses a coloured overlay/paper at school, you can run or install the following utility. This will change the colour of the whole screen. **ColorVeil** adds a customisable colour filter over your Desktop, Internet browser, video player, document, email, or program. You can work, play, read, write, or browse as usual.

<https://www.aurelitec.com/colorveil/windows/>

- A whole section of the Oak Classroom is dedicated to providing specialist lessons and resources. <https://teachers.thenational.academy/specialist>
- There are resources including social stories to support a child with ASC during the pandemic here: <https://reachoutasc.com/resources/downloadable-resources/>
- A wide variety of resources to support speech and language difficulties is available at: <https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/childrens-speech-and-language-resources/>

If you or your child have any questions about the work in their Remote Learning Plan, or if you require additional support or advice, please email

SENSupport@castlerocksch.uk. One of our specialist SEN support team will respond.

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?

- In the majority of subjects, teachers store all learning materials on the Teams platform. If students are self-isolating for any length of time they are then able to access the same learning that students are being taught in class.
- In some subjects, teachers might communicate with students about home learning using an alternative method, such as the students school email address. For example, in Art and Design Year 11 and Year 12/ 13 students are working on individual projects. Therefore, teacher direction will be more personalised.
- Students will turn their work in to their teacher for review via the Teams platform or email as stated by the teacher. Timely feedback will be provided.
- In some cases, subject and year group dependent, teachers in school will stream the live lesson to students at home.