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**Wixams Academy**

**Remote Education Provision: Information for Parents/Carers**

**January 2022**

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents or carers about what to expect from remote education.

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

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

Since the beginning of the pandemic the Academy has successfully embedded the use of Microsoft Teams into our educational routines and therefore you can expect your child to access their regular timetable taught by their regular teachers, but via Microsoft Teams from day one of any isolation – as long as everyone in your family is in good health.

### 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. Students are taught their normal timetable at the normal times. However, we may have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example practical subjects such as PE/Performing Arts may take on more of a written focus during the period of remote education due to restraints on the availability of space/ability to work in groups.

## 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:

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| Key Stage 3 and 4 | Students will be taught or set 5 hours of work on a daily basis which mirrors their timetable. This will be supplemented by a daily tutor time in order to help us to support your child’s well-being. |

## Accessing remote education

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

We use Microsoft Teams. This has already been placed on all Academy devices and can be downloaded for free for non academy devices. Teams also works through the browser on the internet. Students should use their school e-mail and password (created by them) to log in. All student school e-mails follow the same format:

firstname.surname@student.wixamsacademy.co.uk

### 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:

All students have been provided with an Academy laptop that is suitable for remote learning. This laptop already contains a shortcut for Microsoft Teams. If this is broken please contact the Academy for it to be repaired by our IT team.

* All student books will be sent home at the first opportunity. Families will be asked to collect these. A fortnightly posting of any additional materials will be made for students who need additional paper copies. Staff have been asked to minimise the need for printing and lessons should be able to proceed electronically. We are utilising the Class notebook/Assignment app on Teams to support this.
* Students should submit their work through SMHW or Teams. Families with limited/no internet should keep work at home and submit upon full opening of the Academy. Our feedback policy ensures regular opportunities for self/peer assessment to support progress.

### How will my child be taught remotely?

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

* Live teaching (online lessons) where a teacher will deliver content and set tasks for students to complete.
* Recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)

Staff will register 100% of lessons to ensure all students have access to teaching staff. Lessons will be a mixture of live and recorded teaching. All work will also be posted on SMHW to ensure all students have the opportunity to work at their own pace if needed.

## 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 timetabled lessons as they would if the Academy building were open. In the event of sickness, parents should contact the Academy as per usual protocols.

We ask parents to support their child by providing them with a quiet space to work and appropriate stationery. We would also strongly encourage parents to engage in their child’s learning through asking them questions about what they have learnt.

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

Heads of year monitor attendance on a daily basis, and will contact any families where non-attendance is becoming an issue. Support will be offered by the HOY on an individual basis to encourage all students to fully participate in the live lessons.

### 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:

Students will complete regular ‘purple pen’ tasks as set by their teachers. These tasks are a form of guided self & peer assessment. Research shows that identifying your own errors is more powerful in terms of progress than extensive notes from a teacher.

Teachers will provide ongoing verbal feedback to students and may ask them to re-draft/improve work.

Teachers will also provide a PIN comment once per term. The PIN comment will identify an area in which your child has done well (Praise) an area in which they need to improve (Improve) and a task for them to complete to demonstrate mastery of the improve task (Now do). Students are familiar with this style of feedback and it should be completed in purple pen.

## 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:

SEND staff at the Academy will continue to work with our students who need additional support. They will join the live lessons and communicate with each SEND child via a private chat (which is monitored by the Academy)

Teachers will continue to differentiate materials so that they are accessible for each child.

SEND staff will communicate with families of students who have EHCPs in order to ensure that their well-being remains positive.

Heads of Year and other pastoral staff will also be available to contact students and families directly, to ensure that their wellbeing is not suffering whilst at home.

## 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?

Students should log in to Teams in the same manner as a full lockdown. Staff will teach the students in school and those involved in remote learning at the same time; we call this hybrid teaching. They will endeavour to ensure that any child at home feels fully involved in the lesson through asking them questions/ assigning them to groups as they would in the classroom. Students may respond through speaking directly to the teacher/class, or using the chat bar function. We encourage all students to leave their cameras on, as this makes the experience more personal.