



Alderbrook School
& Sixth Form
AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS

Alderbrook School
Remote Education
(January 2021)

The purpose of document is to provide an explanation as to what students, parents and carers should expect during periods of school closure or student isolation relating to coronavirus (COVID-19).

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

Assuming that most students are in school when your child is isolating, the first requirement is that students should complete all previous work that has been set by teachers. Following that, they should spend any time revising prior learning, referring to the 'retrieval lesson' on our website to help them with revision strategies.

<https://www.alderbrookschool.co.uk/instructions-for-retrieval-practice/>. Some teachers may invite students to join their classes in school, so students at home should accept any invitations. Alderbrook teachers will otherwise upload materials for lessons at the end of a school day for students to complete the following day.

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 with adaptations where appropriate. Teachers upload materials at the end of their school day as this will give them the opportunity to make sure the work is clearly explained and differentiated for those students who are at home.

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 students broadly the same number of hours each day as if they were in school. When students are isolating and most students are in school, they will follow their timetable for the previous day, unless they are invited into live lessons. When most of our students are learning remotely, there will be less work set on Class Charts as separate homework, and the independent study work will more likely form part of the lesson itself. Students may be invited to continue to complete tasks in their own time where appropriate. Examination year groups should expect more of this. Students who are in examination year groups will be encouraged to revise topics independently and some will be offered remote revision sessions.

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

Our remote learning platform is Microsoft Teams. This is where all live lessons and lesson materials will be provided. This is also where students will be asked to submit their work. Other resources will be signposted by teachers during their lessons, and students from Year 7 are trained to use reliable websites for their own reference. Some of these are also signposted in our Curriculum Booklets:

<https://www.alderbrookschool.co.uk/subjects/>

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 parents/carers are invited to request laptops, dongles and any other technical support. Contacting itsupport@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk is the quickest way to access this support. Our IT team contact any families needing this help to resolve issues on an individual basis.

Books, paper and folders are available for collection from school for students who do not work on a laptop/PC/Mac book and where they cannot provide these materials for themselves.

Where remote learning at home is difficult for any reasons, and where appropriate, students will be invited to work in school where they will have access to IT facilities and support. Parents can also request this stating their reason for the request to the School Office or your Pastoral Manager.

Through all these approaches, we expect that all students are able to access, complete and submit their work.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a combination of approaches to teach students remotely. All our teaching uses the Microsoft Teams platform. Class Charts is our homework platform and will also be used to provide some further independent learning where appropriate.

- live teaching for all or part of a lesson (online lessons using Microsoft Teams)
- recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- textbooks, knowledge organisers and reading books which students have at home

What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

Your child should follow their school timetable. They will need a table to work at and access to IT. Where this is not available at home, parents/carers must notify the school so we can support where needed.

Your child should have the basic equipment for learning, such as pens and paper. Families who need support to provide these should notify the school.

Parents/carers should encourage their children to let their teachers know when they need extra help, using Teams and ideally in the lesson itself. They can private message teachers if they need to.

Students and parents/carers are encouraged to notify the school if they are struggling in any way.

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

We are monitoring student engagement in our lessons daily. Teachers will encourage students to participate in lessons and access materials on Teams. Where engagement in a particular subject becomes a concern, we will contact parents/carers directly. The pastoral team will make contact with parents/carers when engagement becomes a concern overall, and they will support students to re-engage with their learning.

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

- Whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are valid and effective methods the methods to assess and feedback on students' work.
- Whole class quizzes, written tasks that students submit, responses in lessons through questioning, are all approaches that teachers might use. Teachers use the work students complete, to shape the next lessons. Feedback may be provided to the whole class, where teachers will unpick misconceptions during their lessons.
- Students' understanding will be checked throughout lessons through questioning, as they would be in the classroom.
- For each year group, whilst assessment of learning is ongoing as described above, there will be at least one piece of assessed work across half term, for which students will receive personal feedback. An exception to this might be lessons that occur once a fortnight, where more time is required for teaching and learning. For Physical Education core lessons, students are not required to submit assessed work, though engagement continues to be monitored in these lessons.

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 students, for example some students 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. Our Student Development team make regular calls to our parents/carers where appropriate, to support them to access and submit their work. Students who cannot engage with online learning, even after staff are informed of difficulties and have adapted work, will be offered support in school. EHCP students and their families are supported by the Student Development Department as needed.

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

In this situation, students will join any live lessons that are organised, and so must follow their timetable. As our teachers will upload lesson materials at the end of the day, giving them the opportunity to reflect on the lesson they taught, and tailor materials as needed for individuals who are isolating, students complete those lessons the following day. Expectations for the first day of isolation are described at the beginning of this document. All live lessons and lesson materials can be found in Microsoft Teams.

Students isolating at home in this situation will also need to complete their Class Charts homework, after they have completed the lessons. It is acknowledged that this is a lot of time for students to be working independently, so students are encouraged to inform their teachers if they need more support.