Remote learning policy

This policy outlines best practice for remote learning provision in the circumstances of a partial or a whole school closure.

In the event of a school closure, the school is committed to providing continuity of education to its students and will do so through a process of remote learning. Extensive remote learning will apply particularly in a situation in which the school is closed for an extended period, but a high proportion of students and teachers are healthy, and able to work as normal from home.

There is no obligation for the school to provide continuity of education to students who absent themselves from school, with or without parental permission, in contravention to school or government guidance. This may apply, for example, if parents choose to take students on holiday during term time. Similarly, this would apply if parents made the decision, without prior agreement with the school, to absent their daughters or sons from school 'as a precaution', against official guidance, in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease.

The school reserves the right to vary the range of methods used to provide remote learning tasks, feedback and interaction, based on the particular circumstances of any closure and based on our experience.

Extended school closure

In the event of an extended school closure, the school will provide continuity of education through:

a) Regular direct instruction from teaching resources, with facility for students to ask questions via email.
b) The setting of work that students complete, with written responses (if relevant) completed electronically.
c) The assessment of specific assignments that are submitted to teachers electronically and on which feedback is provided.

Where students and teachers have access to the internet the primary platform the school will use to deliver continuity of education is Microsoft Teams. The school recognises that many families may not have home printers so we will not require the printing of material. Where students do not have access to a computer/laptop at home, the school will aim to source appropriate electronic devices for them to use (on a loan basis), or to provide hard copies of the material.

For Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students, subject area teachers will provide work broadly in line with students' timetables via Microsoft Teams. Tasks will be set in accordance with existing schemes of learning, and they will be designed to allow students to progress through schemes of learning at the same pace as if they were in school, where possible. Lessons will be set on a daily basis to support students to manage their workload. Naturally, remote learning will require students and teachers to take a different approach to working through content, but tasks should ensure the pace of content coverage is as close as possible to in-school learning and ensure students do not fall behind. The nature of tasks set should allow students to learn independently, without the specific support of an adult at home. The type of task set will vary between subjects, but examples of appropriate tasks might include:

- Reading and noting new material from a common subject area textbooks or electronic resources.
- Working through subject-specific presentations or worksheets provided by the subject area teachers.
- Watching a relevant video resource and making notes on it.
- Completing a listening exercise (e.g. in languages).
- Written responses to prompt questions / essay plans etc.
- Completion of practice questions or past papers, particularly for students in examination years.
- Working through relevant exercises offered by external providers (e.g. Educake, Dr Frost Maths, Senera Learning
- Pre-recorded powerpoints.
- Use of Oak National Academy resources.

Oak National Academy

As part of our plans to support remote teaching and learning we will be complementing our own resources with those from Oak National Academy. This online classroom has been created by teachers specifically to support students' learning at home. Oak National is a free website available at www.thenational.academy. It is funded by the Department for Education, and your child's teacher will advise the best way to use the lessons. Students can access Oak's online classroom on any device; they don't need to log in or remember a password. Students can access lessons across a range of subjects. Each lesson is delivered by a trained teacher, over a pre-recorded video, and it's very clear at the start of each session anything you might need (such as pens, paper, etc). The lessons are designed to require minimal supervision. Oak National also offers an adapted curriculum to support students with special educational needs.

Students will:

- Be expected to participate as fully as possible in the remote learning process, completing independent work and submitting assessed tasks promptly and to the best of their ability.
- Be expected to read and respond to communication from the school (e.g. an email from a teacher).
- Contact their subject teacher if they have any questions about the nature of specific tasks set or unable to access the work provided by their classroom teacher.

Teachers will:

Set lessons on a daily basis on Microsoft Teams in accordance with schemes of learning by no later than 9am each morning. Lessons can be set in advance as long as the date issued corresponds to your timetable.

- Pay due care to the nature of tasks set, so that students have a range of activities to complete at home.
- Provide constructive feedback to students in a timely manner, and be available to respond to email/telephone queries during the timetabled lesson.
- Where possible, use Oak National resources to set student lessons, as these resources have been quality assured by the Department for Education and meet the national curriculum requirements.
- Where experiencing IT related issues while remote working, contact the IT Support team at IT Tickets (support@partnership.education). Should any member of staff not have access to the internet the site will remain open for staff to use school computers.
- Communicate via official school channels, and not through personal accounts or other websites as per the safeguarding policy.

Curriculum/Subject leaders will:

- Be responsible for overseeing the quality, nature and frequency of tasks set and assessed within their subject areas.
- In the event a teacher is unwell during a period of remote learning, ensure work is set for their classes.
- Create a bank of general resources should parents ask for additional work beyond that set by a teacher.
- Map videos/recorded lessons and websites from Oak National, BBC Bitesize or other online platforms against schemes of learning that ensures lessons are sequenced and learning is interleaved.

Live stream lessons

Teachers will not live-stream lessons from their homes, nor engage in any video calling, unless in exceptional circumstances agreed in advance with Mr Mason (Deputy Headteacher). Many students have to share electronic devices and as a result expecting all students to be available for live stream lessons is not practical. Pre-recorded lessons will allow families to organise a timetable, which allows all students from a household access to learning. Research further suggests that pre-recorded material allows students to revisit core knowledge and make it part of their long-term memory.

The policy should be read in conjunction with Safeguarding & Child Protection and Behaviour Addendum policies addressing remote learning and online safety during COVID-19.