



## Remote education provision: Information for Parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency for students, parents and carers in relation to remote learning. We will offer the highest quality provision given our resources, and this document outlines what you can reasonably expect to be provided for your child.

For details of what to expect where individual pupils are self-isolating – as opposed to provision during a lockdown, or entire cohort's absence from school – please see the penultimate section of this document.

### **Will my child be taught the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?**

We will teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have needed to make adaptations in some subjects. For example, for practical subjects such as Art, DT, Music and PE it will not always be possible to provide live lessons. We also believe that a balance of different types of learning, independent study and research are important components of an effective 'remote education.' Ofsted's recent paper 'What's Working Well in Remote Education' (11<sup>th</sup> January 2021) states that:

*The remote education curriculum needs to be aligned to the classroom curriculum as much as possible. And, just like the classroom curriculum, it needs to be carefully sequenced and ensure that pupils obtain the building blocks they need to move on to the next step. Curricular goals should be made as explicit remotely as they would be in the classroom.*

## Remote teaching and the timetable

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

Remote education (including live lessons, independent study and research) will follow our normal timetable. This means that all students will work between 8.25 a.m. and 2.45 p.m. with a number of necessary breaks and the relevant number of lessons based upon key stage. It is extremely important that students continue to interact with others whilst at home, that they plan to exercise, eat healthily and pursue other interests wherever possible.

## Accessing remote education

### **How will my child access remote education provision?**

Our remote education is hosted via Microsoft Teams. Your child has access to Microsoft Teams alongside a number of other Microsoft products as part of their school profile. They should log on each day to the relevant Team when their subject lessons are timetabled.

### **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. If you require help in accessing a laptop, additional internet connection or additional data, please contact the school at [school@durhamjohnston.org.uk](mailto:school@durhamjohnston.org.uk) We are committed to providing support so that each student can access online provision at home.

### **How will my child be taught remotely?**

We use a combination of both live teaching and pre-recorded teaching. Your child should be able to communicate with their class teacher at the time when they have lessons. Please be aware that a range of teaching styles will be used and that we do not favour any single approach. Teaching will be based upon the demands of the subject, what is being taught and what will best help students to understand, learn, remember and progress. As noted by Ofsted's recent report:

*Different approaches to remote education suit different types of content and pupils. Mixed models may be effective in some cases.*

## 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 pupils to engage with their online lessons. If your child is ill and unable to do so, please contact the school in the usual manner. We need to keep a record of absence using established methods of communication. Please do not communicate with staff members via Teams. Please also be very clear that lessons are for students and that our system should be accessed and used by students only. It is not intended for parents or carers and school staff will not be able or expected to respond to queries immediately; our usual school communication policy is to respond to non-urgent queries within three working days. If your child cannot engage with school because of a lack of an internet enabled device then please follow the steps outlined above and contact the school.

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

We will monitor Teams usage and you will be contacted by a member of staff if we have concerns about your child's engagement. Online attendance during lesson time is very important. Whilst students are working from home, they still need to apply themselves, follow a structured day and continue to learn.

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

Feedback on student work can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual students. For example, whole-class feedback, or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms, are also valid and effective methods. We do not have a standard, universal approach to feedback. Our approach is determined by the specific demands in each subject area and what works well for one subject may not be appropriate for another. Ofsted have offered the following guidance given feedback and assessment:

*Assessment is built into some online platforms and most textbooks. Low-stakes quizzes can be built in to remote education, as can written assignments and retrieval practice activities. Pupils can then be invited to re-visit and process the main content further in an additional task or later lesson through retrieval practice.*

## **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 students, for example those 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 students on an individual basis. For further details on our SEND policy please see the relevant section of our website.

## **Remote education when not in lockdown**

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

It will not always be possible to teach individual students who are self-isolating. This is due to the challenges posed by teaching students both at home and in school. In these circumstances, students should revise, review work and continue to access class and subject resources via Teams. Children at home can expect work to be uploaded onto Teams each day for completion. This will be a version of the same work that students in school are completing. They can communicate with their teachers to ask for help and clarification but should remember that staff will need to prioritise communicating with the majority of the class, so may not be able to respond immediately.

## **Safeguarding**

Staying safe online is very important.

The school's filtering and monitoring system, in addition to providing granular filtering, also monitors for potential safeguarding issues. It offers reports against the following safeguarding categories:

- Abuse
- Adult Content
- Bullying
- Criminal activity
- Radicalisation
- Substance abuse
- Suicide

The system is regularly monitored within the school for alerts highlighting potential issues which require closer review. This could involve viewing sites accessed and noting activity before and after the alert. Activity can also be viewed in real time where appropriate.

Any misuse of the school's internet provision identified may result in action being taken against that pupil. This could include the school's own disciplinary procedures and/or in serious cases (including safeguarding concerns and criminal activity), reporting of activity to other relevant authorities.

If you are worried about any aspect of online safety or safeguarding please contact your child's Head of Year or the schools Designated Safeguarding Lead, by emailing the school at [school@durhamjohnston.org.uk](mailto:school@durhamjohnston.org.uk), marked for the relevant person's attention in the subject line. Alternatively, phone on 0191 3843887.