

Remote education provision

ATAM Academy



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS:

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to students 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 students are self-isolating, please see the final section of this page.

Mrs S. Williams – January 2021

The remote curriculum: what is taught to students 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 students being sent home?

In the first one or two days of remote education, teachers will set independent tasks for students to complete on Google Classroom. Staff will contact students to ensure that they have access to a device and Wi-Fi. Students identified as not having access to a device will be offered a work pack which can be collected from school.

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 some adaptations to PE and the creative subjects.
- Practical subjects such as Design and Technology and Physical Education will adapt their lesson to ensure appropriate health and safety precautions are in place. In other subjects, particularly demanding and complex content might be moved within the curriculum plan, to ensure it is comprehensively delivered once we return to school.

Will my child still be supported pastorally?

Each week, your child's Primary class teacher or Secondary Form Tutor will conduct a welfare call with each student. The foci will be on a range of relevant and current topics. This will be one method of keeping in touch with your child outside of their academic subject lessons.

To maintain your child's social interaction and engagement with school outside of lessons, year group assemblies will take place each week focussing on wellbeing and maintaining cohesion and communication among the ATAM community.

Through Tutor Time, and PE your child will receive tips on how to physically stay healthy by choosing the right foods and exercising, how to stay mentally well by meditating, staying focussed on their goals and keeping safe online at home.

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 study) will take students broadly the following number of hours each day:

Key Stage 1	3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger children
Key Stage 2	4 hours a day
Key Stage 3	5 hours a day

Accessing remote education

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

Lessons and learning materials are available on Google Classroom. Staff and students from Reception to Year 8 have been provided with Google login details. Your child can access their live lessons using any device connected to the internet. We encourage students to access their lessons on a desktop or laptop machine rather than a phone or tablet because they will find it easier to engage in the lesson with a larger screen and keyboard.

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 students may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those students to access remote education:

In the first instance, we will do our best to issue or lend laptops or tablets to students. Please contact the school at info@atamacademy.com or 02082529831 to let us know if your child does not have digital or online access.

In the absence of laptops or tablets available for issue, the school will provide printed materials available for collection. These materials can be made available on a weekly basis. Students can submit work to their teacher once a week, where it can be dropped off at school.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- live teaching (online lessons)
- recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- textbooks and reading books students have at home
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences
- long-term independent study and/or internet research activities

Are the live lessons safe for my child?

Our robust safeguarding procedures are still in place. Although your child is not physically in our care during this period, we will ensure the virtual classroom is a risk free environment and that students are aware of who to contact if they would like to raise a concern and how. You may raise a concern at any time by selecting the 'contact us' tab on the school website and selecting 'ATAM Safeguarding Lead' from the contact list.

Every one of our online lessons are recorded and kept securely in line with our Privacy Policy. These recordings are reviewed regularly by middle and senior leaders for quality and training purposes. Each student has agreed to a set of Terms and Conditions which the school diligently enforces.

The Senior Leadership Team will regularly visit live lessons for quality assurance purposes ensuring lessons are effective in providing a safe and engaging environment for your child to learn.

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?

Our expectations of your child are as follows:

- To attend every lesson on their timetable without exception and to arrive to their lesson on time
- To participate in every lesson by engaging in activities and answering questions
- To complete all work set by the teacher to the best of their ability and submit it on time

You can support your child by:

- Implementing effective daily routines for example establishing sleep and meal times
- providing a quiet workspace with all the required resources available such as exercise books, textbooks and stationery

Google classroom lessons are taught in class-size sessions. This allows the teacher to ask for student contributions and give feedback, live during the lesson. Online quizzes, Teams Assignments and polls will also be used to provide feedback to students. You are invited to support your child as they participate in the live lessons, assuming the role of a teaching assistant.

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

- A register is taken every lesson.
- Any students who do not attend the lesson, will be contacted by school in accordance with the school's usual attendance policy.
- If a student doesn't submit assignments, then a member of staff will be in touch to inform parents and provide support if needed.

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 student work is as follows:

Teachers will be assessing students' progress both throughout the lesson, and over a series of lessons.

During lessons, teachers will assess student learning by asking targeted questions of students, or using polls and such features to check understanding. Teachers will also gain an insight into what students are finding difficult from their interaction with students via the independent activity part of the lesson, and during the plenary. Teachers will use this insight to adapt their lesson accordingly, or to inform the next lesson

Additional support for students 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 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 to support those students in the following ways:

- As lessons are taught in their usual classes and by their usual teacher, lessons will be differentiated and delivered as usual in a way that supports students.
- There are additional literacy and numeracy resources for students who have a specific difficulty in these areas. These come in the form of additional booklet resources as well as live, online intervention sessions with our teaching assistant and learning support specialists.
- Students with EHCPs are encouraged to come to school, and access support in with their online lessons.
- Our Learning Support team will also make regular contact with families of students with an identified SEN need to ensure that any concerns are passed on to teaching staff and support is given where possible.
 - This includes the SENDCO and tasked TAs making calls to pupils and parents.
- Teachers have been given further advice on working with SEND pupils online through the CPD session led by the SENDCo.
- Teachers are asked to run focus group sessions with targeted pupils each week.
- For targeted pupils with SEND, learning is blended with live and pre-prepared packs for learning.
- For targeted pupils, there has been a reduced timetable agreed to support pupils to maintain their focus on core lessons.
- There are currently plans for one core lesson a week to set independent study for pupils to allow teacher to work with SEND groups all lesson.
- An LSA is available online each day to complete core lessons with EHCP pupils in small groups.
- LSAs work on site with a number of EHCP pupils on site.
- TAs lead targeted reading with small groups (online) in Primary School.
- TAs run one to one reading sessions with onsite pupils.

Remote education for self-isolating students

Where individual students 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 students 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 can access their live lessons in the same way, joining the rest of their class remotely. They can ask questions and be questioned and submit their work by email or through google docs.
- Teachers strive to teach both those in their class and students isolating at home, however, there might sometimes be a delay in students being admitted to the lesson as staff settle their class and take the register.
- Parents / carers need to inform the school as soon as they can and teachers will set some work related to what is being taught in school.