Remote education provision: information for parents

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

The remote curriculum: what is taught to learners at home

A student'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?

Teachers will communicate with learners through Microsoft Teams. Live lessons or work to be completed independently will be set here.

Following the first few days of remote education, will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in college?

- We teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in college wherever possible and appropriate. However, we may need to make some adaptations in some subjects where the practical work cannot be completed in the usual manner.

Remote teaching and study time each day

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

We expect that remote education (including remote teaching and independent work) will take place following the same days and times as their regular college timetable.

Accessing remote education

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

Shooters Hill 6th Form College uses Microsoft Teams to communicate with students and deliver lesson content. All students have an Office 365 account which allows them to access Microsoft Teams and their college email account where their teachers will set them work and communicate with them.

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 learners to access remote education:

- If students are eligible for bursary, they may be allocated a laptop through their bursary fund.

- Course tutors have identified those students who have not got access to remote learning at home at the beginning of the academic year. Each individual need will be assessed and device allocations will be made as appropriate.

- Where other students do not have suitable online access and there are insufficient laptops available to be borrowed, the student's head of department should be notified so as they can be allowed access to a computer room at college.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Some examples of remote teaching approaches:

- live teaching (online lessons)

- recorded teaching (e.g. lesson video/audio recordings made by teachers)

- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)

- textbooks and reading books learners have at home

- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences

- long-term project work and/or internet research activities (as per the colleges full opening guidance, colleges full opening guidance, schools are expected to avoid an over-reliance on these approaches)

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?

- Students are expected to fully engage with remote learning where they possible can. If there are any barriers to being able to fully participate, learners and parents should inform their tutor or head of department.

- Parents and carers can help students by setting routines to make sure they are able to access their lessons to support their child's education

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

- Teachers will take a register for every session in the usual way and expect learners to participate appropriately unless a student's absence eg sickness or technical problem has been reported.

- Text messages will be sent to parents informing them of every missed class.

- If a student fails to attend a lesson or engage appropriately, their tutor will be informed who will liaise with the head of department and/or parents accordingly.

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 students. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are also valid and effective methods, amongst many others. Vocational courses will also have coursework to be submitted in order to complete the course and be awarded a grade. This will be assessed as per the normal Awarding Body's assessment regulations. Academic courses eg A level and GCSEs will also be assessed through submission of homework and substantial formative assessments via Microsoft Teams.

Additional support for learners 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 learners, for example some learners 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 learners in the following ways:

- Learning Support Assistants will still be available to support students in their learning.

- The college remains open for those students who are unable to access the curriculum remotely without further support.

Remote education for self-isolating students

Where individual learners need to self-isolate but the majority of their peer group remains in college, 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 college.

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

Teachers will continue to set classwork, homework and assignment work via Microsoft Teams. Teachers and students will be able to communicate with each other via this platform to make sure students are able to keep up with the lessons that learners onsite are accessing.