

Milton Keynes Academy Remote education provision: information for parents

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

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

Students will be provided with access to Microsoft Teams, and will be able to access allocated classrooms with work set by the class teacher.

Where the student does not have a device, parents are advised to get in touch with the school, and alternative provision will be made.

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?

The curriculum taught remotely is the same as the one taught in school wherever possible and appropriate.

During a national lockdown, some adaptations in provision will be made, and these will be reflected in our curriculum maps on our website.

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 work) will take pupils broadly the following number of hours each day:

Key Stage 3	4 hours
Key Stage 4	5 hours
Key Stage 5	5 hours

Accessing remote education

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

The main learning platform at The Milton Keynes Academy for students is Microsoft Teams. This is used for the delivery of all lessons and independent work that is set for students. Students can submit work in this platform, and teachers will deliver feedback through the assignments feature.

Live interactions between students and staff also happen through Microsoft Teams.

The provision at the academy, includes resources shared across established school-to-school support networks and other learning resource providers such as the Oak National Academy, GCSE POD, Bedrock vocabulary, and Hegarty Maths. These will be accessible through the Microsoft Teams platform.

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:

Providing a digital device to support remote learning

- Parents should contact Mr Akram via email to request a device on Sarfraz.Akram@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk
- Alternatively, parents can discuss this with the Head of Year:
 - Head of Year 7 - Kevin.Copson@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk
 - Head of Year 8 - Kristal.Watkins@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk
 - Head of Year 9 - Nicholas.Campbell@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk
 - Head of Year 10 - Jonathan.Newman@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk
 - Head of Year 11 - Martin.Lancaster@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk
 - Head of Sixth Form – Pauline.Forster@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk.

Providing internet access to support remote learning

- Parents should contact Mr Akram via email if they do not have appropriate internet access in the home on Sarfraz.Akram@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk
- Alternatively, parents can discuss this with the Head of Year. Contact details as above.

Short term offline work packs

- Parents should contact the relevant Head of Year to request an offline work pack for their child. Contact details as above.
- All teaching staff are contactable either via email, or parents or students can request a call from any member of teaching staff by speaking to our administration team on 01908 341700.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Live teaching through Microsoft Teams
- Pre-recorded PowerPoint and Microsoft Stream lessons recorded by a subject specialist
- Resources shared from learning resource providers such as the Oak National Academy, GCSE POD, Bedrock vocabulary, and Hegarty Maths
- Consolidation activities, through Microsoft Forms and online quiz platforms
- Assignments set by the subject specialist, including work on Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint etc.
- Resources that pupils have access to at home, including exam revision materials
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences.

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?

At The Milton Keynes Academy, we believe that pupils have access to a rich and varied diet of learning experiences whether in school or working remotely, but pupils must engage to fully explore these. We expect that pupils will:

- Follow their normal timetabled lessons
- Complete all work set by the subject specialist through the Assignments app on Microsoft Teams
- Attend all live lessons as calendared through the Microsoft Teams Classrooms (these provide the best opportunities for staff to engage and interact with your child to support their learning).

We recognise that this will require some parental support, and we are here to support you as well as your child. If you do have any concerns, please do get in touch with the relevant Head of Year, who can support you in addressing any concerns.

To support your child's learning, we would recommend that you:

- Establish and keep a routine as close as possible to the normal school day for your child
- Ensure that you try to provide an appropriate working environment, at a desk, and without distractions wherever possible
- Encourage your child to put their phone away whilst working
- Encourage your child to be independent and proactive.

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

We are constantly reviewing the engagement data provided from Microsoft Teams. This allows us to have a detailed understanding of your child's engagement, including logging in times, duration of time spent on assignments, attendance and punctuality to live lessons, and submission of work.

Our tutor team are contacting all parents and students weekly. During this conversation any concerns around engagement will be raised.

Where there are significant concerns, the Head of Year or Deputy Head of Year will communicate this with yourselves.

If you have a concern around your child's engagement in remote learning, please discuss this with your child's form tutor.

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 pupil work is as follows:

Feedback on low-stakes assessment:

- Scores on low-stakes quizzes and tasks will be shared with students by accessing the Microsoft Form document that your child has submitted

Feedback on submitted assignments:

- Detailed feedback will be shared with students. This may be through individually marked work, shared via the Microsoft Teams platform, or may be through whole-class feedback, shared in a live lesson

Feedback on formal assessments:

- Detailed feedback will be shared with students, via the Microsoft Teams platform.

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 pupils, for example some pupils 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 pupils in the following ways:

Our Quality First Teaching is tailored to meet the needs of all learners. However, should you wish for further support for your child, please do not hesitate to contact our SENDCo on the following email address: iain.murdoch@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk

Members of our inclusion team can send out differentiated paper packs to those families who don't feel that they can access our online provision.

For those EHCP students not accessing our in-school provision, we are making weekly calls to support families with remote learning.

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils 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 pupils 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?

Pupils who are self-isolating will be provided with work through the Microsoft Teams platform, in line with the work being completed in class.

Your child will be able to submit assignments, receive feedback and access a rich and varied curriculum through this remote learning offer.