



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How many hours a day will my child be learning remotely?

- As we are following our normal timetable at the normal times, your child's lessons will be exactly the same length as if they were in school.
- This means that for Years 7-10 they have 5 hours a day and Year 11 have 6 hours and 15 minutes each day.

### 2. Will you be following the normal curriculum or have you changed it?

- We are following our normal curriculum.
- The overview documents for each subject (the 'Learning Journeys') can be found on our website or by clicking [HERE](#)
- We have found that we have had to modify some resources and lessons to make them more accessible for pupils learning online.

### 3. What should my child expect from their teacher and the lesson?

- That they are 'in' their Google Classroom during the time of the lesson to facilitate and guide the learning and answer questions and queries. If this is not possible due to illness, another member of staff will set the work.
- That the lesson has a filmed introduction from the teacher using the Loom screen video capture app, which places the lesson in context, outlines key learning points and outlines expectations.
- To receive feedback as they normally would in lessons. This means that we are continuing with our usual marking and assessment schedule. We are using the Mote voice-recording app to provide feedback on pupil work.

### 4. How will you provide feedback on the work?

- As per our usual marking and assessment schedule.
- Additionally, we are using the Mote voice-recording app to provide as much regular feedback on work as possible.

### 5. What should my child do if they are stuck or want to ask a question?

- They should use the 'stream' in the relevant Google Classroom to pose questions or raise issues.
- Outside of the normal lesson time, we cannot guarantee that the teacher will be able to respond, as they will be teaching other classes.



## 6. How should parents contact teachers and the school?

- Please **DO NOT** use the stream in the Google Classroom. This is for pupil / teacher communication only and the staff have been instructed not to respond to parents via this medium as it impacts upon lessons and learning time.
- Continue to use the usual methods of communication. The school office is staffed during school hours and will be able to assist you. Please note that staff email addresses to be used are the @wes.swecet.org addresses and not Gmail addresses via Google Classroom.
- Information about the different year group Micro-schools can be found [HERE](#)

## 7. Why is the school not doing 'live' lessons?

- There are mixed views on this across the profession and across the community.
- OfSTED has published guidance this week that states that, "live lessons aren't always best". The guidance goes on to state that, "Some think that a live lesson is the 'gold standard' of remote education. This isn't necessarily the case". They add that, "Live lessons are not always more effective than asynchronous (i.e. not live) approaches".
- The guidance can be read in full [HERE](#)
- Our role is to deliver the normal curriculum, providing good assessment and high quality feedback. This will produce better learning than a one-dimensional approach, which, by its very nature, focusses on engagement. That is why we are emphasising that our decisions are based on what constitutes effective learning.
- It is our belief that what we have set up is sustainable, sensible and effective and allows for the flexibility of personal circumstances for pupils and staff. An entirely 'live' offer would be a backward step.
- Our main concerns with 'live' lessons are:
  - That they have an inherent safeguarding risk compared to what we have set up.
  - They mean that if a pupil is not able to be online at the correct time or has connection issues then that lesson is 'missed'. Similarly, live streaming increases the risk that the teachers IT will not work as effectively as if they were simply 'online' because some are working from home and therefore only have domestic Wi-Fi.
  - They mean that if the pace of a lesson is too fast or a pupil wants to listen again, they cannot go back over the content in the same way as they can with what we have set up.
  - They mean that some staff are not able to deliver lessons at the correct time due to their own circumstances. This does not apply for most teachers but for those it does affect, our system means that they can pre-record materials and be 'in' the classroom for, at the very least, most of the lesson to respond to learning and questions.
- However, we intend to further extend what we are doing in the coming weeks. Departments in the school have been instructed to provide longer pre-recorded introductory segments where the lesson is a key lesson that introduces a new topic or leads into a number of related lessons. We are also focusing on providing more worked examples and modelling of answers to aid pupils in answering questions.



#### 8. How will you support my child's welfare and safety?

- We monitor whether pupils are online and the work that they are producing.
- We will contact parents where we have concerns about this.
- If we cannot contact families we will conduct a 'doorstep' visit to ensure that we are satisfied that the child can be accounted for.
- Form Tutors have been asked to call tutees once a week to check on their welfare and work.
- Our pastoral department continues to operate during lockdown and can be contacted via the school office.
- We have restarted our two pupil wellbeing platforms on Twitter and Instagram.

#### 9. If my child is unwell or unable to take part in their online lessons that day, what should I do?

- You need to contact the school as you normally would if they were not in school.

#### 10. I want to send my child into school instead of learning remotely. Can I?

- We currently have provision on site for the children of key workers and vulnerable children that have been arranged via parental conversation with Ms Wood.
- You would have seen on the news that schools are concerned about the number of pupils now in school as a result of the Government widening the criteria around this. Some schools have 70% of their pupils currently in school.
- Indeed, at William Edwards we currently have 5 times the number of pupils in school than we had in the first lockdown and the numbers are growing each week.
- If this continues to rise, then we may have to place limits on the numbers if we felt that this would be putting an unnecessary risk on pupils and staff.
- Indeed, the Government have now backtracked slightly on this and the guidance now states that key workers "should keep your child at home if you can".
- **Therefore, we would urge all parents who meet the criteria and are not yet sending their child into school but are considering it, to only do so as an absolute last resort so that we do not have to limit the provision.**

#### 11. What are the children of Key Workers and vulnerable children that are in school doing?

- The same as all other pupils
- These pupils are based in computer rooms and are accessing their Google Classroom lessons in the same way as all other pupils.

#### 12. My child needs one of the laptops that have been issued to schools by the Government. How do I go about getting one?

- You would have seen in the news that the Government has been allocating laptops to schools.
- It is implied from the reporting that schools are awash with laptops to give pupils. This is not the case!



- We received 44 Google Chrome Books last week and have already given most of them to pupils who are unable to access online learning. The few remaining ones we have left have already been earmarked for specific pupils.
- If your child cannot access their online provision, please contact us to discuss how we can support them. However, please note that it is unlikely that we will be able to simply give them a device for the reasons outlined above.
- As well as using laptop, tablets and phones, we are aware of several parents whose children are using their Xbox or PlayStation to access their Google classrooms because no other device is available and it seems to work well. They are doing so using an external keyboard and accessing their classroom from the web-browsing app on the console.

### 13. My child is in Year 11, what is happening to their GCSEs and BTECs this year? How will grades be awarded?

- As it currently stands, schools know no more than the general public.
- All we know is that exams have been cancelled this year, OFQUAL will be consulting imminently and that a decision will be made by the end of February.
- As soon as we know more then we will inform Year 11 pupils and parents.
- In the meantime, it is more important than ever that Year 11 continue working hard, as what they achieve in the next 5/6 months will likely need to be factored into the awarding of any grade.

### 14. What happens if my child receives Free School Meals?

- We will make a weekly payment to cover the cost of free school meals into the bank accounts of eligible parents.
- This payment will come from a company we are using called WONDE.
- If you have any questions related to this, please email [fsm@swecet.org](mailto:fsm@swecet.org)

### 15. Are you still going to hold Parents' Evening? If so, how will you do this safely?

- Yes. We have purchased an online platform being used by many schools this year because of the pandemic.
- The platform allows parents to make 5-minute appointments for the night of the parents' evening and at the time of the appointment, it allows a video call with the teacher. Further details will follow in due course but the dates of the parents' evenings are:
  - Year 8 – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February
  - Year 9 – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February
  - Year 10 – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March
  - Year 7 – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March
  - Year 11 – to be confirmed once details about GCSEs are known.

### 16. What happens if my child has an EHCP and the annual review is due?

- We are working through these currently and will ensure that all annual reviews are held by phone/Zoom by their deadline.