

Remote Education at Cockermouth School

Headteacher:

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The information to follow will support understanding of what students, parents and carers should expect during periods of school closure or student isolation relating to Covid-19.

Remote education provision: information for parents and carers

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to students, parents and 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 document.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to students 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?

Students should access their Firefly tasks where teachers will upload the work for lessons missed. If there is a period of time where students are awaiting work, they should complete Hegarty Maths where they can work on a full range of topics, or do personalised work through 'Fix up 5'. Reading for pleasure is an important strand of education for all ages and students should engage with their own reading resources or material on Firefly.

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?

Work for each lesson will be set in Firefly tasks. We teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we may make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, we may need to reorder content to maximise the suitability of what can be learned at home and what is better learned in school.

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 students broadly the following number of hours each day:

Key Stage 3 and 4	A minimum of 5 hours
Key Stage 5	A minimum of 5 hours, plus additional work as directed by the teacher

Accessing remote education:

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

Microsoft Teams should be open at 8.40 am for live registration.

Firefly 'tasks' will show students their 6 lessons for the day. From there they could be directed to Microsoft Teams, a Google Classroom or other virtual learning platforms. Teachers will always provide hyperlinks so student can simply click from Firefly.

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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:

- the school can lend laptops to students who are unable to access remote learning at home;
- the school can provide dongles to give internet connectivity where it is needed;
- the school will provide printed materials to a small number of students who cannot work effectively online;
- Parents and carers who have concerns about accessing remote learning should contact the relevant Head of Year via reception@cockermouthschool.org or Mr Carter, Assistant Headteacher on carterh@cockermouthschool.org.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Sequences of lessons follow our Remote Learning Framework (<https://cockermouth.fireflycloud.net/remote-learning-support>). Lessons will include some of the following inputs:

- recorded video/audio instruction or feedback from Cockermouth School teachers; this can be paused and played again as needed;
- live teaching (online lessons);
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences;
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets) for a small number of students who cannot access online learning;
- recorded teaching by external providers (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, BBC Bitesize).

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?

Expectations for student engagement with remote education:

- Students should register at 8.40 in Microsoft Teams with the form tutor;
- Students should follow their timetable for the day; 6 x 55 minute lessons;
- Students should submit work as requested;
- Students should contact their teacher if they have any questions, or if the quantity of work is too much or too little.

Expectations for parent and carer support, for example, setting routines to support your child's education:

- Parents and carers should ensure their children are ready to start the school day at 8.40am;
- Parents and carers should contact the Head of Year if they have difficulties accessing remote education, for example resources, devices or an appropriate working space;
- Parents and carers should look at this 'Supporting your child with home learning' leaflet and/or access our 'Remote Learning' pages in Firefly (<https://cockermouth.fireflycloud.net/remote-learning-support>).

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

- A register will be taken every morning. If students have not attended registration the form tutor will click 'registration not attended' in Class Charts and parents will be contacted that morning;
- Subject teachers will check that students have engaged with lessons. If after 48 hours* of the lesson a student has not engaged, the teacher will click 'non-engagement' on Class Charts and parents will be sent a notification. Parents should talk to their child about the missing work and contact the school if further support would be helpful;
- Heads of Year will work with families who need additional support to ensure their child(ren) access education whilst the school building is closed.

* Most students will follow their daily timetable. However, the 48 hour window allows families to be flexible with working arrangements and access to devices.

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 use a mixture of individual comments in Firefly/Google Classroom, automatically generated scores on quizzes and whole class feedback in videos or during live teaching.
- The nature of feedback varies by subject and also year group, depending on what is currently being taught. Please contact Heads of Department if you require subject-specific information, using reception@cockermouthschool.org.
- In Maths specifically you should expect a combination of responses to questions within Firefly, self-marked tasks, automatically marked quizzes on Hegarty Maths and recorded worked solutions from teachers to key questions set previously.

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:

- Students with an Education Health Care Plan attend the school hub and are being supported with their learning by teachers and teaching assistants. All have keyworkers who liaise closely with parents and carers to ensure that their curriculum is tailored to their needs.
- SEND students working remotely are supported by learning support staff/Heads of Year. Timetables and tasks are adapted to reduce demands on the students where necessary. The Learning Support team maintain regular contact with families and the students' teachers to ensure the remote learning is appropriate for the individual student.

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

When a child is isolating, their Firefly 'tasks' will be uploaded with material for each lesson missed. The teacher will check the register each lesson and then send the work by the end of that day. If a student is awaiting work, they should engage with reading for pleasure or Hegarty Maths.

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