



Westlands Academy  
*Forward Together*

# Home Learning Provision: Information for Parents and Carers

January 2021

# **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Remote education information for parents and carers**

We want to ensure you and your child know what to expect from remote education if your child needs to learn from home. Where your child is off school due to COVID-19, they will be provided with remote education for the period they are off – information regarding this provision is also included in this document.

## **The Remote Curriculum**

- Westlands staff will aim to provide the same curriculum at home as we do on the school site wherever possible
- Due to the nature of some activities in some subjects, we have made amendments to subject activities, e.g. ceasing practical lessons in science and food technology and making changes to the art curriculum to reduce the need for specific art resources etc.
- In the event of individuals or groups of students having to self-isolate at short notice, we will aim to provide learning activities for the first day or two whilst we make the necessary arrangements for remote learning

## **Remote Teaching Time**

- As Westlands educates students in KS3 and KS4 students will receive learning resources that replicates the work that is being done during the normal school day.
- We understand that your child has an EHCP and therefore are likely to have some barriers to learning. We understand that your role as a parent/carer is difficult at this time and you may have other children of different ages with their own home learning needs to consider. We are here to help and are happy to discuss any concerns or difficulties you are experiencing and can work together to hopefully identify solutions.

## **Remote Learning Approach**

Remote learning is delivered in a variety of different ways, including the following:

- Work is delivered through our online learning platform, Microsoft Teams. This has been designed so that students can easily access a wide variety of learning and assessment resources and enables quick communications between students and teachers. Examples of resources and tasks set through Microsoft Teams
  - Links to video explanations
  - PowerPoint presentations
  - Worksheets that can be completed online
  - Quizzes and surveys
  - Links to subject specific learning sites such as Conquer Maths or Times Table Rockstars
- Some students may be provided with exam papers or subject based booklets
- If a student is unable to access Microsoft Teams, then work packs will be sent out with printed resources that are based around the work being delivered in school or through

Microsoft Teams. These should be returned to school when complete.

## **Feedback**

In order for us to provide the best remote learning, we will continue to provide constructive feedback to ensure students are meeting the correct standards in their learning. We will use the following methods to ensure your child is learning efficiently and effectively:

- Asking students to submit work online so that effective, work specific feedback can take place
- Paper based work will be provided with a stamped address envelope to return to school, or it can be delivered where possible. Feedback will be provided via a phone call
- All students will receive a call at least once per week where work issues, be them general or specific, will be discussed
- Student work and engagement is being monitored in school on a weekly basis and further calls or visits may be made to help encourage and support those who are not engaging with the work in the way we expect

## **Accessing Remote Education**

Most of the remote education is being delivered through Microsoft Teams as we believe that this is the most effective way for students to receive their education. This can be accessed through the following devices

- PC
- Laptop
- Tablet
- X Box or Play Station – best used with a keyboard and or mouse
- Mobile phones can also access Microsoft teams but this is not a suitable device to complete work on for longer pieces of work

Instructions about how to access Teams via a smartphone, a tablet, a laptop or on a games console have been developed and sent home as hard copies. They are also available on the school website and can be sent electronically by email on request.

We fully understand the issues that arise from using technology and staff will happily spend time talking through any issues with you over the phone. Home visits may take place but staff will not be able to enter a house to provide technical support

Where there is an issue with physical access to technological devices or internet, we have a limited but growing availability of equipment that can be loaned out to students whilst remote learning takes place. This equipment is monitored by school and parents/carers need to sign the acceptable use form before these are delivered. Please discuss this further with the school if this option is needed.

## **Remote Education for Self-Isolating Students**

Following the current national lockdown, in the case that your child is required to self-isolate due to having symptoms of coronavirus or through being a close contact of someone with a confirmed case of coronavirus, remote education will continue to be offered in much the same way as now.

School will make contact with you and your child and re-establish those systems which you and your child found most successful.

## **Contact with the School**

The school will make contact with parents/carers and students at least once per week if they are not attending school due to COVID-19 reasons. This call will be based around the welfare and wellbeing of students, but will also be used to discuss general work issues. If a student or family member wishes to discuss a specific work issue, the relevant member of staff will make contact as soon as is possible. Parents and carers are encouraged to contact the school at any time should they require any help, support or guidance

## **Additional Information**

Additional information you need to be aware of includes the following:

- All contact details for the school are found on the school website and are also included on any official documentation such as letters
- Any concerns regarding the safety of your child should be directed to the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads:  
James Newman (Principal) / Stephen Thomas (Vice Principal) / Pauline Jones (Parental Support Advisor). Any concerns can also be raised in the weekly conversations with staff and these will be passed on to the appropriate person
- Government guidance states that during the COVID-19 nationwide lockdowns/ partial school closures, parents/carers are able to make a decision about whether they send students with an EHCP to school or keep them at home. However, it is expected that if a child is kept at home, they do engage in remote learning.

## **Supporting Your Child's Learning**

**Top tips for supporting your child while they learn from home:**

- Keep to a routine as much as possible so your child knows what to expect.
- Keep active – ensure your child is getting enough exercise and incorporate this into their daily routine.
- Use different methods to assist learning, e.g. online programmes and documentaries such as those shown on the BBC during times of partial school closures
- Stay sociable – organise with other parents to arrange video calls with your child's friends so they can stay connected during social hours.
- Again, if you need any support or advice, please contact school.