



# Home learning provision at Darrick Wood School - information for parents/carers

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to students and parents/carers about what to expect from home learning 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 page.

## **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 home learning. Each situation will be unique, and we will adapt accordingly to each situation's particular circumstances. This may mean that provision in the first day or two may be a little different to in-school provision and any previous Home Learning provision.

## **What should my child expect from immediate home learning in the first day or two of students being sent home?**

In the first instance, students may be sent home with work to complete independently. This may include textbooks, worksheets or resources provided in class to complete. This is to ensure continuity of education, whilst also allowing for staff to plan for the unexpected change in circumstance. It may be possible, however, that Home Learning is able to commence online relatively quickly and, where this is realistically viable, it is our preferred method of Home Learning. The main platform that will be used to both set and receive work will be Microsoft Teams. Teaching classes will be set up via Teams where files can be shared, and communication made between staff members and students. This will include any live, pre-recorded lessons or set work that is to be undertaken. The School's expectation is that the lessons will be set daily following the School timetable. When taking place, Live Lessons will be scheduled using the calendar function within Teams. When Live Lessons are not scheduled, students will find any work set within their Class Teams page under the Posts and/or Files area of each classroom on Teams. If some students in a particular class are not in School, but others are, then the cohort who are learning at home should check the Files/Posts area of their Classroom on Teams for each class.

## **Following the first few days of home learning, will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?**

Darrick Wood School will continue to teach the same curriculum remotely as we do with in-school lessons. Staff will use, and adapt, existing schemes of work and curriculum

models to ensure the same content is covered through home learning. Teaching staff will continue to teach according to their Curriculum plans. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, changes to Science and practical based subjects may have to alter due to the need for students to be within the School and depending on when this takes place within the academic year. Each subject has made their own contingency plan with regards to any changes they may need to make in order to adhere to a local or national lockdown. Time has been spent within Department and Faculty areas, in order to adapt and refine our curriculum should the need arise to teach remotely.

## **Home learning and study time each day**

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

If students follow the work outlined by their teaching staff throughout the home learning set, we expect that home learning (including remote teaching and independent work) will take students broadly the following number of hours each day:

Key Stage 3 and 4	Five hours per day
Key Stage 5	Five hours per day

## **Accessing home learning**

### **How will my child access any online home learning you are providing?**

The main platform that will be used to both set and receive work will be Microsoft Teams. Teaching classes will be set up via Teams where files can be shared, and communication made between the staff member and the students. This will include any live, pre-recorded lessons or set work that is to be undertaken.

The Teams training and guidance has been shared with all staff and students.

Each student at the School has been provided with a log in to Microsoft Teams since September 2020.

Students have also got access to other platforms which are subject specific. The School is also using, when appropriate, the resources available from Oak National Academy and other national organisations in order to support it's online Home Learning.

## **If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will you support them to access home learning?**

We recognise that some students may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those students to access home learning:

- We can provide a device. Please contact the School if you think you might be eligible by emailing [office@darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk](mailto:office@darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk) or phoning 01689 850271.
- Please contact the School if you are struggling with internet access by emailing [office@darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk](mailto:office@darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk) or phoning 01689 850271.
- Some students share devices and cannot always access Live Lessons. For this reason and others, not all lessons will be 'Live Lessons', but our preferred method of lesson delivery is either a pre-recorded PowerPoint, pre-recorded video and/or a Live Lesson that is also recorded and then uploaded.
- Students should submit work online, via Assignments on Teams. If this is not possible, parents/carers should contact [office@darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk](mailto:office@darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk) to discuss other options of submitting assessed work.

## **How will my child be taught remotely?**

Our research with our students has shown that a blended approach, using a variety of resources, is the most popular and engaging approach. We therefore use a combination of the following approaches to teach students remotely:

Some examples of home learning approaches:

- Live Lessons on Teams, with an invite sent through Teams. Students should check their calendar on Teams before every lesson to check if it's a Live Lesson. In the first instance, the School is focusing on delivering Live Lessons to examination classes.
- Recorded teaching (e.g. voice-over PowerPoints or videos created by staff at the School). The majority lessons will have some element of a recorded lesson if they are not Live. In the first instance, the majority of Key Stage Three lessons will be pre-recorded.
- Links to online resources, websites and videos (such as The Oak Academy).
- Printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets).
- Textbooks and reading books students have at home.
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences (e.g. MyMaths).
- Long-term project work, theme day/week projects and/or internet research activities.

## **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 log on, ready to learn, by 9am every day. They are expected to attend all Live Lessons, engage with all pre-recorded lessons and complete all work, including Assignments, to the best of their ability, working for (broadly) five hours per day and the pattern of their school timetable. Students should meet every Assignment deadline and inform their teacher with at least two days' notice when they cannot meet a deadline. Where students are unable to access, find or understand their work, they should contact their teacher via email during the timetabled lesson time. Staff will endeavour to reply, but this might not be possible. Please remember that most staff teach several hundred students every week.
- Parents/Carers are asked to encourage routines to support your child's education, keep to their timetable and check work they are uploading to Assignments to ensure its complete and reflective of their best ability.

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

The School monitors engagement with online learning regularly. Form Tutors, Heads of Subject, Heads of Department/Faculty and Achievement Coordinators will make contact, when concern over engagement arises, with specific parents/carers.

### **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:

Students will be receiving feedback as per the DWS Assessment and Feedback Policy. What can feedback look like?

- Quizzes: Using a platform such as Microsoft Forms or Kahoot to set a knowledge quiz. These are often self-marking and the results allow teachers to see patterns of confidence and any misconceptions. Live multiple-choice quizzes with answers in the Conversation on Teams also allow for this. These may be followed up with a whole class feedback or instant automated feedback
- Live feedback/marking: As students post answers in the Conversation, teachers may provide feedback commentaries - either verbal or written, praising positives and suggesting improvements or enhancements. Comments and suggestions will be provided to either individual students, groups of students or the whole class
- Whole Class Feedback: After collecting Assignments, teachers will read them and will feedback (usually in the next lesson) regarding common issues, misconceptions, or next steps
- Spotlight marking of assignments: Teachers will mark assignments by highlighting success and/or next steps against pre-determined criteria
- Assignments marked against a rubric: Some teachers will use the Rubric in Assignments. Students can then be scored accordingly and will receive this feedback

## **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 home learning?**

We recognise that some students, for example some students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access home learning without support from adults at home. We acknowledge the difficulties this may place on families, and we will work with parents/carers to support those students in the following ways:

- The SENCO and our Learning Support Faculty will communicate, regularly, with SEND students and/or their parents/cares.
- Further information about sources of support can be found on the School's website.
- The curriculum offer is also regularly reviewed for individual students and regular conversations are held between the Learning Support Faculty, the student and their parents/carers in order to make regular assessments with regards to any adaptations that are required for these students.

## Home learning for self-isolating students

Where individual students need to self-isolate, but the majority of their peers remain in school, how home learning 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 simultaneously.

### **If my child is not in school because they are self-isolating, how will their home learning differ from the approaches described above?**

During periods of partial closure or for students self-isolating, Form Tutors and/or Achievement Coordinators will make contact with their students regarding their engagement, especially where concern over engagement arises.

- Students will have access to the same or similar learning materials and tasks used within the School during this time, so that students can engage with the same curriculum and keep to their normal school timetable. Live Lessons or pre-recorded lessons will not be possible, so students should access the learning materials on Teams and complete the work to the best of their ability, ensuring they meet all Assignment deadlines
- Students should also make use of the online provision such as Oak National Academy to support their learning, should they require it.
- Students who are too unwell will not be expected to complete home learning. However, they are encouraged to do what they can to catch-up when they are well enough to do so.