



Remote Education Provision at Gillingham School – 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 at Gillingham School. **Part A** addresses what to expect during a national lockdown or if entire Year group cohorts are required to work remotely. **Part B** describes what will happen if small numbers of students are required to self-isolate. 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.

Part A

What will remote learning look like at Gillingham School?

Lessons will be delivered 'live' and will follow the normal school timetable as it was from the start of September 2020. This includes the staggered timetable introduced to adapt to and mitigate against COVID. It is our aim to teach broadly the same curriculum remotely as we would be teaching in school. The curriculum will be adapted only to meet the constraints of online learning.

See the school day timings below

Years 7, 9, 11 and 13		Years 8, 10 and 12	
9:00-9:20	Tutor and registraion	9:00-9:20	Tutor and registration
9:20 – 10:20	Period 1	9:20-10:20	Period 1
10:20-10:40	Break	10:20-11:20	Period 2
10:40-11:40	Period 2	11:20-11:40	Break
11:40-12:40	Period 3	11:40-12:40	Period 3

12:40-1:10	Lunch	12:40-1:40	Period 4
1:10-2:10	Period 4	1:40-2:10	Lunch
2:10-3:10	Period 5	2:10-3:10	Period 5

What does 'live' mean?

- In most circumstances you can expect your child's teacher to be on the 'virtual threshold' to greet the class at the start of the lesson
- Lessons will be 45-50 minutes long to allow both staff and students a break from the screen and to set up for the next lesson
- They will often revisit previous work to check understanding before discussing upcoming work with students
- Students are likely to have tasks to complete independently during the lesson
- Staff will maintain an online presence to answer any questions during this time
- Live can also mean pre-recorded teaching by the class teacher or from commercially available sources

Accessing Remote Education

All students will access both live lessons and any resources using the Microsoft Teams software. This is freely available for use by our students by using their in school login details.

Supporting our students to access online learning

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:

- If your son/daughter does not have access to a suitable device with which to access Microsoft Teams (a phone is often not suitable, as it will not provide all the necessary features to engage fully with our online provision) then please contact the school office in the first instance. We have a number of laptops for students in genuine need. You will receive an acknowledgement of your request and we will get back to you as soon as we are able to discuss your request. office@gillingham-dorset.co.uk
- If you have difficulty accessing good wifi we may also be able to help by providing you with a dongle. Again please contact the school office in the first instance



- If your son/daughter is still having difficulty accessing their learning via our MS Teams platforms then please contact the school office who will pass your details to the pastoral team. They will then be in touch to discuss alternative provision. This may result in students being invited to attend school if effective learning cannot take place at home.

Engagement and Feedback

- Pupils are expected to fully engage with their learning
- They will attend morning registration with their tutor at 9:00am to monitor attendance and to help them get into a good working routine
- Pupils are expected to complete all tasks set by staff within their scheduled lesson
- As a general rule, feedback will occur as it normally would during our normal feedback cycle. 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. This means that most feedback will take place during a lesson. Staff will continue to ask students to submit written work as is appropriate for their curriculum area.
- Where we are concerned about a students' engagement you can expect contact in the first instance from the subject teacher in question or the Head of Department. If the issue occurs in multiple subjects then the Year Team are likely to contact you to discuss the best way forward; this may include your son/daughter physically attending school. We thank you in advance for supporting us in these matters.

Your role

You can help your child in their learning by ensuring they adhere to the routine of the school day and by providing them with a quiet space to learn.



Supporting students with additional needs

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:

- In the first Instance if your child is unable to access the work due to their additional needs please contact the class teacher to discuss options regarding differentiated tasks
- If they are unable to access the work due to difficulties using the technology please contact the school office who will refer your query to our SLT lead for remote education
- If this does not resolve the problem please contact the SENDCO to discuss other ways we might be able to support your child. Options may include, but are not limited to: additional differentiation, an online mentor, or access to in school provision
- Please note that if your child receives 1:1 sessions due to an EHCP these will continue remotely as will other interventions such as reading plus
- If your son/daughter receives Maths plus intervention they can continue to access Sumdog from home
- For other interventions such as spelling and handwriting additional support can be provided on request please contact the SENDCO to discuss

Part B

When smaller cohorts of students are required to self-isolate it is not possible to deliver live lessons whilst at the same time deliver in school provision. In this scenario class teachers will:

- Upload all lesson resources to the files system in your child's class team
- Post instructions for these resources
- Continue to set home learning tasks using the assignments feature

Students should therefore continue to be able to follow the curriculum at the same speed as their peers who remain in school.