



Ridgeway Academy

Remote education provision: information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to students and parents or carers about what to expect from remote education.

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 through google classroom.

What should my child expect from immediate remote education in the first day or two of students being sent home?

Students will have immediate access to live lessons via Google Classroom following the full timetable which includes all subjects. Students should use Google Classroom and enter google meets through the link provided by their teacher in the classroom. The day will start with tutor time as normal at 08:30. We will follow the normal school day of 5 x 1-hour lessons. Lunchtime will be fixed at 13:15 - 13:55.

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?

- The remote curriculum follows the same timetable as in school at the same lesson times
- All subjects will be available through remote learning, most will be taught live, core PE will provide practical activities to be completed over the course of the day and will not be live
- Whole school and year assemblies will be delivered via loom presentations and presented by tutors for tutor groups
- Tutor time and personal development learning time will continue to be in place, delivered via google classroom by tutors

Remote teaching and study time each day

The curriculum will be delivered live at the usual school hours:

8:30-8:45	Tutor time
8:45-9:45	Lesson 1
9:50-10:50	Lesson 2
10:50-11:10	Break time
11:10-12:10	Lesson 3
12:15-13:15	Lesson 4
13:15-13.55	Lunch
13:55-14:55	Lesson 5

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:

Secondary school-aged students not working towards formal qualifications this year	5 hours of teaching per day, no further expectation for on screen learning per day
Secondary school-aged students working towards formal qualifications this year	5 hours of teaching per day plus home-based learning which will be practise of the skills and knowledge taught.

Accessing remote education

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

At Ridgeway Academy, the platform used for remote learning is Google Education. Within this students' work can be accessed via Google Classroom with live lessons taking place through Google Meet. Students have their own individual login and passwords.

A range of Google Suite applications can be used, such as Sheets, Slides, Docs and Forms. Some are compatible with Microsoft applications such as Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

Subject specific applications may also be used which require student login and passwords. These will be referenced within the subject classrooms.

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:

If your child does not have sole use of a computer at home please email caroline.maddocks@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk. Since March 2020, we have loaned more than 280 Chromebooks to students and are committed to ensuring that all students are able to access the lessons taught by their teachers remotely.

If you do not have WIFI at home please email caroline.maddocks@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk and we will provide you with a WIFI router.

How will my child be taught remotely?

The Virtual Learning Curriculum follows a student's normal weekly timetable to ensure that all curriculum areas are covered, including the Personal Development sessions led by Form Tutor's during one extended registration period per week. Students are all registered to Google Classroom platform for each of their curriculum lessons and for form time. Students access this through Google Classroom suite on personal or school provided devices.

At Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 all students have access to live lessons via Google Classroom, uploaded teaching materials and student resources or a recorded lesson. The only exception to this is core PE where students are provided with a range of suitable physical activities to complete whilst at home. Students are requested to upload their work from the live and recorded lessons to their Google classroom account so that staff can check their understanding and offer feedback. Teaching staff will continue to use the whole school marking policy of awarding marks for effort and where appropriate offer specific comments on students' work. Assessments will still be set by Teachers in line with their curriculum model and report on student progress, however these may take an alternative form in the current climate.

Remote education provision: information for parents

January 2021

At Key Stage 4 and 5 students are also encouraged to use the range of revision materials, guides and textbooks recommended by the subject leader to complete independent revision and guided Home-Based Learning. Teaching staff also guide students to suitable websites and apps to supplement their online provision.

Provision for Key Worker or Vulnerable students is the same as those students working from home. All students attending school as part of this group are able to access the live or recorded lessons through the same Google Classroom meet.

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?

Establishing a routine for home learning can be challenging. It is best to follow the usual routines of the school as students will be familiar with this:

Expectation of student engagement:

- Students should attend every live lesson for the full length of the lesson (this may vary depending on the subject)
- Students must follow the remote learning code of conduct whilst in online lessons, this includes keeping cameras and microphones off unless instructed to use them
- Students must provide the work requested either via google forms, email or through photo records of the work completed

Expectations of parental support:

- Ensure your child is up, out of bed, dressed and has had breakfast ready for tutor time at 8.30am
- Ensure your child is logging on to all lessons throughout the day
- Contact the school if you are struggling to access online lessons for us to support you
- Ensure your child is taking time away from the screen during break and lunch time
- Encourage your child to complete the physical activities set for PE lessons during the week

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

Staff take registers as normal for all lessons, parental contact via a first day response communication will be made with the parents of any student that is marked absent from AM registration and period 1 on any given day.

Staff will log student engagement and the quality of the work produced in lessons on a whole school tracking document on a two-weekly cycle. This information will be used by Form Tutors in their two-weekly communication with parents. This can be tracked via the My Child at School app.

Directors of Learning will monitor attendance on a weekly basis and will make phone calls to parents of students where engagement is of serious concern in a timely manner.

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 receive feedback in the following ways:

- Immediate verbal feedback during live lessons
- Written or verbal feedback in google classroom for work submitted on the platform
- School report during the course of the year, found on My Child at School app
- Scores of online quizzes and tests via google classroom or the platform being used.

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:

The Ridgeway SEND team will continue to make weekly telephone calls to the families of SEND students to check on engagement, address any concerns and support both students and their families. The team will offer advice and share feedback with the relevant staff to ensure that we all do everything possible to facilitate your child's progress.