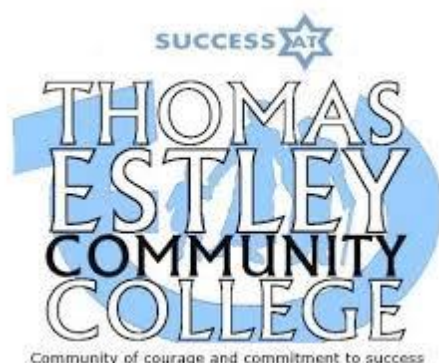


# Thomas Estley Community College

## Remote Learning

January 2021



This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents or 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 pupils are self-isolating, please see the final section of this page.

### **The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home**

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

Work for each lesson will be uploaded on to Satchel One, our online learning portal. This is also the college platform for setting homework. Communication between home and college will share clear explanations and instructions of expectations in remote learning. Students will be expected to log on at the start of the college day, and follow their normal college day timetable during the day. There will also be opportunities to join tutor activities and assemblies, all through Microsoft Teams. The Inclusion and Pastoral team will also contact more vulnerable students to check in and offer appropriate support or a place in school if they are eligible.

**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?**

We teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. This is the case particularly in more practical subjects such as Art Design and Technology, PE, Music, etc where some equipment available at college is not easily accessed when working at home.

**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 pupils broadly the following number of hours each day, in line with Government guidance. Students will follow their normal school timetable when accessing remote learning;

Key Stage 3	Minimum of 5 hours a day in line with government guidelines
Key Stage 4	Minimum of 5 hours a day in line with government guidance

A student's day will mirror their college timetable. There will be tutor catch ups and assemblies for students to engage with, from 8:30am, with lessons running as normal between 8:50am and 3:00pm. Occasionally there will be special inputs over lunchtime (eg Year Nine Options tasters) or after the end of the school day (eg Year Eleven Mentoring).

**How will my child access their remote education?**

Students will access all work through their usual student log on, on Satchel One. Any live lessons will be delivered through Microsoft Teams, with links shared on Satchel One. Learning may also be supported through a variety of other online platforms including Seneca, Dynamic Learning, Hegarty Maths, mymaths, as well as school specific subject blogs. College produced learning resources will be uploaded to Satchel One so they can be downloaded for work, which can then be uploaded for teachers to assess and check, or checked/ collected in in other ways, as appropriate.

**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 pupils may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education:

- Students can access our online learning through a variety of different devices including phones, tablets, computers and laptops, and teachers are understanding about different ways in which work is accessed and returned for assessing (eg photos of written work taken on phones and emailed, where it is not possible to upload office documents).
- Students who do not have access to any digital device will be supported in the best way possible, through either the lending of a device or inviting into college to work onsite. We regularly monitor both access to and completion of remote learning and contact parents and students where necessary to ensure good access and engagement.

### How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- live teaching (online lessons) through Microsoft Teams
- recorded teaching (e.g. video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- Podcasts
- use of e textbooks and reading books pupils have at home
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences eg My maths, Dynamic Learning
- high quality home produced or subscription resources such as Powerpoint/ Publisher/Word documents, which may be narrated at times.

*We work hard to transfer into remote education what we already know about effective teaching in the live classroom. These characteristics of good teaching are more important than the medium of delivery, be it in the 'live' classroom or through remote provision (whether or not that remote provision is live or pre-recorded). Live classrooms enable important interaction between teachers and pupils through, for example, questioning, eliciting and reflective discussion. These complex teacher skills in the live classroom are not always easy to recreate in a remote environment, but we attempt to recreate at least some aspects of this interactivity and intentional dialogue.*

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 engage from 8.30am, until the end of the college day
- There are weekly pastoral check ins through assemblies and tutor activities/contact
- Students are expected to follow their school timetable and complete the work within each lesson
- There are clear expectations of what should be submitted each lesson on our learning platform
- We suggest that parents support students with a quiet working space, and facilitate a good routine for students to engage with the learning provided, as well as providing appropriate equipment where possible and contacting the college if additional support is required.

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

- Parents have all been provided with their own parental account to access Satchel One. Parents are reminded through parent mail to contact the college if they have not received a parental pin. This allows them to check learning tasks, completion, etc.
- Subject teachers will initially remind students to submit work on the comments section on Satchel One. This will also remind parents through notifications where needed.
- If work continues to not be submitted/ engagement does not match expectations, then subject teachers will email parents to raise concerns.
- If concerns continue over a period of time, one or more of the following actions will be taken: pastoral team, wellbeing team or achievement mentor contact home to attempt resolution, senior leadership team contact home to attempt resolution, visit by college attendance officer to attempt resolution. We are committed to ensuring good engagement and learning, working together with both student and family to achieve this goal.

### **How will my child's work and progress be assessed?**

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 pupil work remotely and assessing work is as follows:

- Individual feedback comments on Satchel one
- Whole class feedback forms
- Verbal feedback through live lessons
- Individual marked questions
- Automatically marked quizzes online
- Diagnostic, formative and summative remote testing where and when appropriate.

### **How will the college work with me to help my child who needs additional support from adults at home to access remote education?**

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:

- Learning support assistants will attempt to pupils who aren't in school with remote learning, and the inclusion department is able to receive and respond to parental concerns
- Specific children who are isolating or not attending due to lock down may receive extra support within in Microsoft teams lessons from teachers and/or inclusion staff.
- In some cases, where children's' needs make it very challenging to work remotely, a risk assessment may result in an invitation to work onsite with the children of critical workers.

### **Remote education for self-isolating pupils**

Where individual pupils 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 pupils both at home and in school.

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

- Parents need to contact the college through the Covid email address to alert us to their child's need to self-isolate.
- Within 24 hours subject teachers will have posted work on Satchel One for students to access (*this will be identified through the red icon and will say 'If you are absent from school please complete'*)
- Work is to be submitted as requested
- If large numbers are not in school we may move to a hybrid lesson – with some students within the lesson and some accessing remotely, although this is only sustainable for short periods due to increased workload for staff and potentially reduced engagement for some students.
- Where whole year group bubbles are isolating, but other year groups are present in college, the above process will occur but also supported by the addition of some live lessons on Microsoft Teams, etc, as described above.

*Updated January 2021*