



## Online education provision: information for parents

In line with Department for Education requirements, the information below is intended to provide clarity and transparency to students and parents/carers about what to expect from online education 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 online curriculum: what is taught to students at home

The first day or two of being educated online might be different from our standard approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a longer period of online teaching.

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

Teachers will ensure that each of their students is allocated to a Google Class or Microsoft Team as appropriate, and that they have access to Moodle resources.

Online 'live' lessons will commence straight away, or as soon as possible after students have been sent home. In the event that live online lessons are not immediately available, teachers will provide initial work to students via email.

### Following the first few days of online education, will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in college?

- Online lessons will be conducted according to the 'normal' college timetable
- As far as possible, students will follow the same curriculum online as they would in college. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, it is not possible to complete practical tasks in science subjects, group performances in creative art subjects or practice certain techniques in visual arts subjects.



## Online teaching and study time each day

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

We expect that online education (including online teaching and independent work) will take students broadly the following number of hours each week:

- 4 hours 30 minutes of lesson time per subject per week
- 5 hours of homework and independent study

## Accessing online education

### How will my child access their online learning?

- Subject lessons will be delivered via Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams
- Tutorial sessions will be delivered via Microsoft Teams
- Day-to-day communication with teachers and tutors will be via college email
- College-wide information will be communicated via college email and the 'King Ed's Virtual' area of the college website:  
[KING ED'S VIRTUAL | King Edward VI College, Stourbridge \(kedst.ac.uk\)](https://www.kedst.ac.uk)

### If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will the college support them to access online 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 online education:

- If your child does not have access to an appropriate device, or they don't have access to an internet connection they should contact their personal tutor
- The college will endeavour to make a device and/or an internet connection available to any student without this access; this may be provided on-site or by the loan of a device to use at home
- During any period of online education, learning resources will be provided via Moodle, email or via the learning platform (Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams). These resources will normally be issued in pdf format to ensure compatibility with all devices; where the college site is closed to the majority of students and staff, printed resources will not be available for online education



## How will my child be taught online?

Teachers will use a combination of the following approaches to teach students online:

- Live teaching (online lessons) with teacher-led introduction and plenary. During the main body of the lesson, varied student tasks (individual, group and teacher-led) will be set
- Pre-recorded teaching resources, including annotated PowerPoint presentations, screencast videos, commercially available websites and YouTube tutorials
- Work packs produced by teachers, issued in pdf or printed format
- Textbooks and reading books students have at home
- Longer-term project work and/or independent research activities

## Engagement and feedback

### What are the college's expectations for students' engagement and the support that parents and carers should provide at home?

#### What do we expect of your child?

- Students will be expected to attend every taught session according to their existing timetable
- Where appropriate, students will be encouraged to turn their webcam and microphone on, in order to engage fully in lesson activities and class discussion
- Students have been issued with detailed guidelines regarding attendance, punctuality, dress-code and general conduct for online learning, which are in alignment with the expectations for a classroom lesson

#### How can you help as a parent or carer?

- Encourage clear routines with regular short rest breaks
- Where possible, provide an appropriate, quiet area in which to work
- Encourage your child to follow a 'working day'; as a full-time student they should be working for a significant part of every weekday.



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

- Attendance registers will be taken for each online session (as they would for a classroom lesson). Any attendance concerns will be addressed initially by the classroom teacher or, if there is a wider problem across more than one subject, by the personal tutor or lead tutor.
- Where there is concern that a student is not engaging with their learning, the teacher will first address the concern with the student. Where a concern persists over a number of lessons or weeks, the personal tutor or lead tutor will address the issue and communicate with the parent/carer

## **How will the college assess my child's work and progress?**

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments. 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:

- Termly subject assessment (progress and effort) grades will continue to be issued during any period of online learning
- Each subject will conduct regular formal 'markbook' assessments (at least 10 per academic year) though it will be more difficult to provide test conditions compared to assessments conducted in the classroom
- Informal feedback will be provided as appropriate each lesson; this can take many forms and may not result in a mark or a grade



## **Additional support for students with particular needs**

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

We recognise that some students, for example some students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access online 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:

- Support for students with special educational needs or disabilities will be overseen by the college's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)
- By arrangement, certain students with special educational needs or disabilities will be invited to access their online education in college. A small student support team will be on hand during the college day to support and assist those students in their learning

## **Online education for self-isolating students**

Where individual students need to self-isolate but the majority of their peer group remains in college, how online education 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.

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

When lessons are taking place in college but your child has to self-isolate, they will be able to access the lesson in the same way as outlined earlier in this document.

Teaching students both in college and at home at the same time presents major challenges, but teachers will endeavour to include and engage those learning from home as far as possible, and will aim to provide learning resources in advance of the lesson where possible