

# Remote Learning Spring 2021 – Information for Parents

This document provides information for parents during the remote learning period of Spring 2021. We recognise that nothing can replace the experience of children being in the classroom but our aim is to provide a curriculum which aligns as closely as possible to our usual in-school provision. This document should be read in conjunction with other information on the Academy website under our remote learning section. We will continue to review our provision on a regular basis and keep you updated regarding any changes.

## **How will lessons be organised during the remote learning period in Spring 2021?**

The majority of lessons will be organised via the TEAMS platform as live sessions. Live lessons will appear on your child's individual calendar on the TEAMS platform. This will allow students to join the lesson they would normally be in if they were at school (via a video link). Feedback on TEAMS lessons from students who have previously self-isolated has been very positive. It is clear that students appreciate the interactive nature of the sessions, the live teacher input, the ability to ask questions, and the structure provided by scheduled timings of sessions. The TEAMS lessons will usually involve some live input from the teacher and instruction on independent tasks to be done. Students may also be signposted to other appropriate online resources. It is clear from extensive research by the Education Endowment Foundation that ensuring the elements of effective teaching are present (clear explanations, scaffolding and feedback) is more important than how they are provided. The report found no clear difference between synchronous teaching (teaching in real time) and other alternatives e.g. pre-recorded videos.

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/best-evidence-on-supporting-students-to-learn-remotely>

## **What support do the school provide for use of the TEAMS platform?**

Tutors shared induction sessions in TEAMS in the Autumn Term, and revisited this training in the Spring Term. Teachers regularly explain the expectations of students using this platform and demonstrate how to access tasks. Parents and students can also find instructions on the TEAMS platform under the following link and additional help videos kindly produced by one of our sixth form students.

<https://www.solihull.tgacademy.org.uk/distance-learning/distance-learning-guidance/>



### **What are the timings of the day?**

Timings of the day have been reviewed in response to student, parental and staff feedback. As from 08.02.21 timings of the school day will be as per the information below for all year groups.

Tutor time: 8:35-9:00 (Tuesdays and Thursdays only)

Period 1: 9:00- 11:10 (break 10:00-10:20)

Period 2: 11:15 – 1:15 (lunch 1:15-2:00)

Period 3: 2:00- 3:00

As most lessons will be live, it is vital that students log in on TEAMS in time for the start of lessons and have all of the resources ready for the relevant lesson. Your child is expected to attend all scheduled lessons.

### **What if our household shares devices and my child is unable to log onto the lesson?**

Although a laptop is preferable, students are able to view lessons on TEAMS via their X box or Playstation and instructions on how to do this are on our website <https://www.solihull.tgacademy.org.uk/files/2021/01/Using-Xbox-or-Playstation-to-access-Microsoft-Teams.pdf> . If students are unable to log in at the actual time of the lesson, they will be able to access a recording of the lesson under the general posts section of the relevant TEAMS class. However, this will not be available until after the entire lesson has finished and the download of this recording can be a lengthy process. In addition, it is far more preferable that students are involved in the live lesson so they can ask and answer questions, and benefit from the interactive nature of these sessions. Tudor Grange Academies Trust are purchasing devices to loan to students who are unable to access live lessons and these will be allocated to students with the greatest need. Please do continue to inform us where your child has difficulties with devices /wifi access and we will do our best to support you.

### **Which lessons will my child not be expected to do during this remote learning period?**

There will be no tutor time sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Core PE lessons will not take place, but we recommend students undertake daily exercise and daily workout suggestions are included under the remote learning section of our website. In addition the PE department have launched a Burn Out Challenge which you can find under TEAMS assignments. Students are expected to attend all other timetabled lessons and registers will be taken.

Students will be given the opportunities to do practical activities during Healthy Living Lessons but must be supervised by an adult whilst using the kitchen. This may mean you decide to let them make the dish at an alternative time more convenient to you. In addition, there will be alternatives to practical activities where this is not convenient.



### **What should we do if we cannot see information on TEAMS about a scheduled lesson?**

Where it is not possible / appropriate to organise a TEAMS meeting for a lesson, details of the work to be completed will be on the SMH platform.

Your child must log in to SMH using their personal account details and not those of the parent. Only a personal student account will enable your child to ask the teacher questions via the SMH message function and to submit work to the teacher for feedback. If your child has forgotten their password, they can use the SMH lost password function. In case of continued difficulties, please email [dchambers@solihull.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:dchambers@solihull.tgacademy.org.uk).

The following link on our website has responses to FAQ regarding SMH. <https://www.solihull.tgacademy.org.uk/distance-learning/distance-learning-faqs/>. If you cannot find the answer to what you are looking for here, please email us using the email address above.

### **What should my child do during core PE lessons / if they wish to do additional work?**

We appreciate that students work at different rates and there is plenty of supplementary work to enrich students' learning.

- We have recently launched a Trust Moodle <https://secondary.moodle.tgacademy.org.uk/>  
This is an online website to which teachers across Tudor Grange Academy Trust contribute. Your child will be able to log on to Moodle using their school username and password, and click on any of their subjects, and any of the topics within that subject. This will take them to a webpage with learning resources organised in a coherent order. You can find resources for most subjects that cover material for this term's learning. We would ask you to be patient as we produce and upload more material. We feel that opening up the Moodle and giving children access to some resources is better than waiting for everything to be complete on this platform.
- Suggestions of discretionary tasks to extend learning for each subject are found here <https://www.solihull.tgacademy.org.uk/distance-learning/discretionary-tasks/>
- Alternative activities to enhance enjoyment of subjects can be found here <https://www.solihull.tgacademy.org.uk/distance-learning/alternative-activities/>
- The Oak National Academy website [www.thenational.academy](http://www.thenational.academy) is an online website funded by the Department of Education. This website provides video lessons for students with follow on quizzes and worksheets. You can search for lessons by year group and by subject.



## How should my child organise their time whilst at home?

Advice on how to support your child with remote learning can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/home-education-tips-for-parents>.

Following a normal timetable at home gives the day a structure with clear cut off times for tasks. Organising a workspace with the necessary equipment and few distractions will be helpful.

We are so proud of how our staff and students have adapted to the challenges caused by the pandemic. The vast majority of students hold themselves to the same high standards during live sessions as they would in the actual classroom. We have spent time in our tutorial programme, outlining expectations to the students so that the sessions run smoothly with no lost learning time. Please revisit the guidance below with your child:

- Blur your background in the sessions (we are aware that some older devices do not have this function).
- Leave your profile as the default – your initials.
- Begin every session with your microphone off to avoid interference noise.
- Begin every session with your camera on. Your teacher will advise you when to change the mic / camera settings.
- Open up the chat bar as a means of communicating with your teacher – remember this is a formal platform for questions and activities so consider your language choice.
- Abuse of the TEAMS chat function / other inappropriate behaviour during a session will result in you being removed from the session.
- Be aware the lesson is recorded.
- Display the Tudor Habits throughout the session to ensure you make the most of the learning opportunities.
- You must not take any images of staff or other students during the session or share recordings of sessions with others.
- You must log on to sessions using their TG Office 365 account.
- Although it sounds obvious, you must only join your own lessons and must not invite other users to join the lesson or share links to the lesson.

**Students are registered where they are present in live sessions. Attendance is checked on a daily basis and first day calls are made where you have not informed us of your child's absence. Each week the College Leader and SASM discuss attendance patterns of the students in their College. Subject teachers make phone calls home to inform you of any engagement issues in lessons. If we were concerned about your child's participation in remote learning, please be reassured that we would contact you to discuss this.**

The Education Endowment Foundation report highlights the importance of peer interaction during remote learning, as a way to motivate students and to improve outcomes. Please do emphasise to your child the importance of starting the session with the camera on and using the microphone when invited to. Let us know of any student who does not have a working camera or microphone so we are aware of individual circumstances.



### **How will my child receive feedback on their work?**

Students will continue to undertake Learning Checks in all subjects to allow teachers to assess progress and inform next steps. There will also be summative end of topic assessments. Feedback to students will take many forms and will not necessarily involve extensive written comments on each individual piece of work. Some examples of the feedback our students receive include:

- Automatically marked quizzes and online activities which give instant feedback on progress and understanding.
- Verbal feedback by the teacher in lessons highlighting misconceptions / excellent work.
- Model answers to allow students to self-assess their work.
- Peer assessment using collaborative platforms.
- Whole class feedback sheets.
- Teacher comments via Teams assignments / notebook.

### **How does the school support students with SEND needs?**

In line with the DfE guidance all students who meet the criteria of 'vulnerable' have been invited to attend our on-site provision and are supported by teaching staff and learning mentors. A regular, weekly phone call by the SEND Team has been scheduled for those students with the highest need as an additional layer of support to facilitate engagement with remote learning. SEND students' engagement with remote learning is monitored and reviewed regularly. Contact with home is made where there is a cause for concern. Staff continue to plan remote lessons with SEND students front and centre of their practice by implementing Quality First Teaching Strategies. Teaching staff and SEND staff continue to support students with developing their own metacognition. SEND staff liaise with external agencies regarding individual students and make referrals where necessary.

### **What is the Academy doing to mitigate the dangers of screen time?**

- There are no online sessions arranged for three tutorial sessions a week.
- No online work is set for core PE time.
- Timings of the school day have been altered to allow for more frequent screen breaks,
- Break and lunch times have been extended.
- Subjects incorporate non screen activities where appropriate.
- No homework is set for years 7-9.
- Where appropriate, students will be asked to do some exercises in their exercise books and upload a photo of their work via Adobe Scan. See support videos on our website regarding this application.
- A working party of staff are trialling short breaks from lessons with mindfulness activities.
- We have organised screen free afternoons on the following dates: 10.02.21, 25.02.21, 05.03.21. On these dates students will be directed to well being activities to encourage them to spend time away from the screen.



*Whilst we recognise that working at home will never be the same experience as being in the classroom, we will be doing our best to provide education for your child during their remote learning period. Our provision has improved so much since the early days of lockdown but it is a continual learning curve for staff and students. Your feedback is always welcomed and important as we strive to offer the best possible provision to all.*

*Finally, we know that some students will find remote learning a challenge. There may be issues with access to technology at home that might mean remote learning is a challenge. Please keep us up to date with any difficulties you are experiencing.*

