



06/01/2021

Remote learning policy from Monday 11th January

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well. I know that this second full national lockdown will potentially bring a sense of unease. I want to stress that we are here to support our students during this challenging time.

The purpose of this letter is to outline how students will be supported with learning remotely. It contains a lot of detail; please ensure you are familiar with it so you can support your son or daughter fully during this time.

Virtual Learning via MS Teams

Students are expected to log into MS teams for **every** timetabled lesson. They are aware of how to do this, however, please see this [link](#) to access the guide in case you need support.

We have made the decision that all students will have all lessons taught as live lessons. This is a significant shift from our remote/virtual strategy during the first national lockdown, which we believe will ensure their learning experience is far more consistent, purposeful and will prevent large curriculum gaps emerging. Furthermore, we feel that this will lead to higher rates of motivation, engagement and will ultimately enable students to stay connected with each other and their teacher during this period. However, we do require **your support as parents/carers to ensure your son or daughter is online and engaged with the lesson.**

Students will be online at the start of the lesson, where they will have a minimum 50% of their total lesson time as live teaching and then will be asked to complete additional learning in the later part of the lesson. They may be asked to submit their learning at the end of the lesson. It is crucial that we maintain the right balance regarding the duration of screen time ('screen fatigue') for our students and teachers.

AM registration

Students will be sent a questionnaire during AM registration which they must complete. This helps us know that students are ready to engage with the learning for that day. We will also use these daily questionnaires and quizzes to gain information and feedback from our students regarding specific things, such as well-being. Therefore, this daily registration is an important aspect of our overall remote/virtual strategy.

Non-attendance to lessons

Please note that as we are now expecting students to attend all lessons, you will be called if your son or daughter does not attend a lesson. Given the reasons why we have moved to a timetabled programme we

will follow this up with you as we consider this a serious matter. Given our commitment to ensuring all students leave us with the knowledge, learning power and character necessary for success at university and beyond we trust that you will support us in ensuring that they are present for every lesson and engaged.

What you should do if your son or daughter is ill and unable to join a lesson

Please contact us using the usual absence reporting numbers by 8:15 so we can advise staff that your son or daughter is unable to join the MS Teams lessons. Please call us daily so we have accurate up to date information and can ensure support as appropriate. This can also be communicated via info@isaacnewtonacademy.org if your son or daughter is in Years 7 – 11, or sixthform@isaacnewtonacademy.org if they are in Years 12 or 13.

Safeguarding

We remain committed to ensuring students are safe whilst learning remotely at home. Please note we have a clear set of guidelines which are available [here](#) to ensure students are kept safe online. As ever if there are any safeguarding concerns then please email safeguarding@isaacnewtonacademy.org

Digital Devices and internet access

We are aware that some students are having to share devices with a number of siblings. We have set up an online questionnaire which you can access [here](#) that will support us in allocating devices to students that may need support with this. Please can you let us know by **11am on Thursday 7th January** so we can ensure they are allocated. It is pivotal that we do not have any barriers to engaging in our remote/virtual strategy over the next six weeks as we can support in alleviating any technological barriers.

Pastoral Support

We know that this period can feel really unsettling and we hope our measures will support students in feeling reassured and settled. Students will receive key daily notices every morning from their Pastoral Leader mirroring the start of a normal school day. Assemblies will continue to take place and attendance is compulsory. Tutors will call their tutees at least once a fortnight.

Feedback from parents

Given that this is a new model and parents will understandably have feedback and questions we anticipate hosting a virtual parent session next week to answer questions and take feedback. Further details to follow.

Yours sincerely,



Sugra Alibhai
Vice Principal
Isaac Newton Academy