

Remote Learning at St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy
Information for Parents and Carers



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What is 'Remote Education'?

This is a broad term which refers to any form of education that is not in the classroom where the teacher and students are not in the same location. It includes remote live lessons, recorded lessons and instructions, learning provided by online websites such as MyMaths and also paper-based work prepared by teachers that students do outside of school. As the government itself points out in its guidance 'Remote education is not the same as digital education. Sometimes it may be more effective to deliver remote education through worksheets...'. This has led us to take a flexible approach which enables the best use of all types of remote education.

What does Remote Education look like at St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy?

While schools have been asked to close to all those other than the children of critical workers and vulnerable children, students at St Anthony's will be taught by a range of methods of remote education. These will include a combination of:

- Live lessons on Microsoft TEAMS with the teacher delivering new content from the curriculum live and students being present. Where such lessons are happening, students are expected to make every reasonable effort to ensure they are present. Attendance at these lessons is registered in the same way as attendance at lessons in the classroom would be.
- Pre-recorded lessons. Some learning will be delivered through pre-recorded power points or videos where teachers can explain new learning and tasks and then upload these to the school platform (FROG) for students to access. Students are expected to access these at their normal lesson time wherever possible and as soon as possible afterwards if they cannot. These lessons must be completed in the same way as normal lessons in school would.
- Some lessons, where new content is not being delivered, may involve teachers setting written work for students which must then be completed using the allocated lesson time and then returned to the teacher for marking.
- Staff will be available to students either on TEAMS or through email during the student's normal timetabled lesson time to support students, however they are learning that day.
- Whether students are at home learning or in school, they will be following the same remote learning and teaching of the curriculum.

The combination of lessons students receive will be dependent on the subject being taught, topics being taught, age and key stage of the students and staff availability.

Staff will continue to assess progress of their students using remote marking and assessment through our FROG platform and by assessing progress in live lessons through methods such as questioning.

Rationale for Remote Education at St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

We have chosen the approach of a combination of methods after reviewing the evidence-base for what works in remote education. There are certain principles which we have considered:

- There is no evidence to suggest that one form of remote education is better than another. In fact, live lessons have their advantages but so do pre-recorded lessons and some paper-based work. For example, advantages of live lessons are that students can interact with their teachers and ask for instant support. Advantages of pre-recorded lessons are that the student can be more flexible in when they do the lesson and also that they can pause and re-watch explanations if they need to. Advantages of paper-based work are that students are having a break from screen time and can reduce their 'cognitive overload' (a term which means there is too much for their brain to take in all at once). We will therefore use a combination of these methods depending on the subject and the part of the curriculum being covered.
- The evidence also shows that it is best to deliver new content in the curriculum in manageable amounts. This might mean that a short live presentation or a short pre-recorded explanation should be followed by individual work for the students to allow them to consolidate their learning.
- Regular reinforcement of learning should take place with recall tasks on previous learning. This may mean that part of the lesson is asking students to review or recall previous learning and this can be done live or through submission of written work, depending on the teacher and the lesson.

Remote education cannot replicate the classroom environment exactly for a range of reasons. This is why we need your support to ensure that students are engaging with their remote education and completing the required work for all subjects.

- We are running the normal school timetable that has been in place since September. This means the students should be completing their lessons in line with their normal timetable. This allows staff to deliver live lessons where possible and also ensures students have a familiar routine to help them cope with the pressures of working alone and ensuring they keep up with their curriculum.
- Students should be ready to learn at the time they would have started school. They should be dressed appropriately, have necessary notes and equipment ready and ideally have a quiet space to learn during the day.
- We expect the same high standards of behaviour during live lessons that we have in the classroom. All students have been sent a guide with these expectations. Where behaviour is an issue, the student will be removed from the lesson and the matter dealt with according to the school behaviour policy.
- Where lessons are pre-recorded or have work set in advance to complete, this should be completed in the normal lesson time.
- Where staff begin the lesson with a short presentation of new content and then ask students to complete tasks, students must use the lesson time to complete these tasks.
- Live lessons may end early to allow students the chance to have a short break and move away from the screen. This is important for their well-being.
- Students should be prompt at the start of their lesson, it is very disruptive for teachers to have to admit students to lessons late.

- When assessed work is set, students must ensure they submit the work via the FROG platform by the date requested. Assignments will appear on each student's FROG page with the task and the submission date. It is vital that students complete these tasks to enable their teachers to check their understanding of the curriculum being covered.
- All teachers and form tutors will be monitoring engagement and attendance with work and lessons and parents and carers will be informed of any concerns we have.
- If your daughter or son has regular difficulties with access to online learning due to devices or internet signal, please contact their form tutor in the first instance to try and resolve the issues.
- When emailing staff, about work or other matters related to school, students must try in the first instance to use the appropriate lesson time (so whenever their lesson would be with that teacher). If this is not possible, then all emails should be sent between the hours of 8am and 5pm to ensure the wellbeing of all staff and students within our community. Students should only use their Academy email when contacting staff.

How To Support Your Child with Remote Learning

- Check they are following their normal timetabled day of lessons.
- Make sure they have removed distractions such as putting their phone in another room (unless it is being used for viewing the lesson).
- Ensure they have materials to hand such as notes, pens and paper for the lessons.
- Make sure they are taking regular breaks from the computer screen during the day.
- Ask them about the work they have completed that day and encourage them to tell you what they have learned.

If we all work together, hopefully we can ensure that remote learning is as successful as possible.