

MILLTHORPE SCHOOL: APPROACH TO REMOTE LEARNING DURING LOCKDOWN IN SPRING TERM 2021



Overview

This document sets out the principles of the school's remote learning offer during the national lockdown starting on 5 January 2021. It takes account of DfE guidance on Remote Education as set out in Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools document:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/952443/210114_School_national_restrictions_guidance_FINAL_14012021.pdf schools as well as research-based evidence and good practice from a range of other sources.

Its purpose is to make it clear to parents/carers, students and other stakeholders what students can expect during this period of lockdown and the rationale behind our decisions.

The Remote Learning Offer

Platform

Millthorpe is using Google Classroom as the principal platform for delivering remote learning. This platform can be easily accessed via a browser on most internet-enabled devices (Chromebooks, laptops, tablets, PCs and other devices such as phones, smart TVs and online games consoles). It gives teachers access to a number of tools within the suite of Google applications.

Timetable

Students will follow the same two-week timetable that was in place during full attendance in the autumn term. We have chosen this model because it provides:

- A clear and familiar structure for students, parents/carers and teachers
- A broad and balanced curriculum, with students continuing to study all their subjects
- Continuity of relationships between students and subject teachers and within teaching groups
- The DfE requirement of at least 5 hours of education per day

The lesson timings have been slightly adapted to reflect the different demands of a remote learning and teaching day. There are still 5 full lessons per day but more flexibility is included to allow for more comfort and movement breaks and time away from screens. The start times however have been kept the same so it is as easy as possible for students to remember.

There is time built into the end of each day for form tutors to make contact with small groups of their tutees for welfare check-ins. Typically, each child will have contact from their form

tutor once a week.

Daily Timetable

Period 1: 9.05

Period 2: 10.05

Period 3: 11.20

Lunch: 12.10

Period 4: 13.00

Period 5: 14.00

Tutor welfare contact: 14.50

Registration

Students will have the register taken by their class teacher for each lesson of the day and attendance is monitored for each lesson. Staff will make contact with parents/carers of children not attending online lessons.

Delivery

Research shows that the most effective way to deliver teaching remotely is by using a variety of approaches, including real-time (synchronous) interactive and pre-recorded elements and tasks to be completed independently. Our focus is on the clarity and quality of instruction and planned resources and tasks that enable students to be guided through their home learning. Our teachers will plan tasks and activities that: engage students in thinking about their learning; ensure that they apply and embed their understanding; and reflect on the learning process. This will include some planned activities that are completed 'off screen'. We have provided training, advice and support to help teachers choose the approaches that work best for their subjects and classes and to make sure they use an effective blend of teaching methods.

Interactive elements include:

- Teachers available in real-time via the Classroom Stream (webchat)
- Live video and/or audio teaching via Google Meet
- Google Questions/Assignments with live teacher response
- Jamboards/Online Whiteboards for peer discussion
- Chat function and Classroom Stream
- Motes (audio feedback tool)

Feedback

Students will receive feedback on their classwork and contributions at points during their lessons, as teachers utilise the features of our Google platform (outlined above) to enable teacher support, assessment and guidance when teaching remotely. Activities will also be planned to facilitate peer and self-assessment and improvement. Not all of the work produced by students remotely will be assessed by the class teacher. In some lessons the teacher may comment on the work of some students, but not others. This is the same as the

teacher operating in a typical classroom, monitoring students' work and progress.

Teachers in some departments will plan lessons that make use of applications and software to provide students with instant feedback where these are appropriate. These may include:

- Google Forms
- Google Quizzes
- Seneca
- Kahoot
- Blutick

Key Assessed Pieces will be set at least half termly for Years 7-10 and at least fortnightly for Year 11. These will be clearly identified as Key Assessed Pieces (KAPs) with a specific deadline for submission. Each student will receive detailed teacher feedback on these assessed tasks. The school will monitor the completion of Key Assessed Pieces (KAPs) and feedback to parents.

Learning Conduct

We continue to focus on students' Learning Conduct during remote learning and we will be celebrating students who display our Gold Standard learning attributes with a weekly roll call in the parent email and receipt of virtual Golden Tickets which will be entered into a prize draw.

SEND Students

The majority of students with SEND are accessing work through the Google Classrooms and in lessons delivered by their usual class teachers. Some students who would normally benefit from a higher level of teaching assistant support are directed towards the Classroom for Supported Home Learning. This classroom is populated with a weekly highly differentiated learning activity in each subject area. Interventions are also available through this classroom such as Read Theory, Spellzone, Audio book information, daily questions and kahoot quizzes. The classroom also has a wellbeing section and instructions on how to enable supported reading and writing when working on a computer.

Students with the highest need receive at least weekly welfare and learning mentor calls from keyworkers who offer bespoke remote support as necessary.

Any parent/carer who would like to discuss this provision or who feels their child is not accessing home learning should contact s.fisher@millthorpe.southbak.academy in the first instance

SAFEGUARDING

See our separate addendum to the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy here:

<http://www.millthorpeschool.co.uk/millthorpe/about-us/policies/>

and online learning protocols here:

<http://www.millthorpeschool.co.uk/millthorpe/wp-content/uploads/Google-Protocols.pdf>

for details of how we will keep children safe during the lockdown period.

ACCESSIBILITY

We have supported access to online learning by surveying all parents/carers to identify and address any barriers. We followed this up by phoning all Pupil Premium parents/carers who did not respond. We have provided all Pupil Premium students who did not have a suitable device to access remote learning with a DfE-funded Chromebook and we have provided families without internet access with routers. We shared the DfE mobile data boost with all families in our weekly newsletter http://www.millthorpeschool.co.uk/millthorpe/17898/weekly_email-friday-8-jan-2021/ and we continue to apply for mobile data on behalf of our students whenever the need arises. In addition to providing electronic access to disadvantaged families, we also provide an on-going supply of exercise books, paper, pens, highlighters and other stationery to support students' remote learning.

Details of how to access Google Classroom and other online features can be found in our video tutorials here <http://www.millthorpeschool.co.uk/millthorpe/how-to-set-up-your-millthorpe-google-account/>

If you have any questions about this document or require further information, please contact:

j.bates@millthorpe.southbank.academy (Assistant Headteacher, teaching & learning)

r.beever@millthorpe.southbank.academy (Deputy Headteacher, curriculum)

a.collins@millthorpe.southbank.academy (Business Manager, IT systems)