

Remote Education Provision at Sussex House:

Virtually Sussex House

Information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents or carers about what to expect from *Virtually Sussex House* (our remote education provision) where national or local restrictions require the school to close. For details of what to expect where individual pupils are self-isolating, please see the final section of this statement.

What should my son expect from immediate remote education in the first day or two of pupils being sent home?

In the period immediately following a school closure, boys will be sent home with appropriate work by their subject teachers to ensure they are productive in the period before the online timetable is operational. Boys are requested to take their exercise and text-books home with them to optimise their learning during this time.

Following the first few days of remote education, will my son be taught broadly the same curriculum as he would if he was in school?

Our *Virtually Sussex House* provision aims to be as broad as that which we offer in school, including timetabled Art lessons. Individual Music and Drama lessons are also available outside of the academic timetable. Some adaptation is necessary in the time allocations of each subject, but the curriculum breadth is maintained.

How long can I expect work set by the school to take my son each day?

The IInd Form will have eighteen 45-minute lessons a week, and access to two further 45-minute interactive sessions. During the Friday afternoon lesson boys watch an educational film made by the Headmaster. After school there will be five 1-hour interactive extra-curricular activities. Each boy will have one prep task per night, which should take approximately 30 minutes.

All other year groups will have twenty 45-minute lessons and access to five 1-hour interactive extra-curricular activities after school. During the Friday afternoon lesson boys watch an educational film made by the Headmaster. Prep is set every night and should take between 30 minutes and an hour.

How will my son access *Virtually Sussex House*?

All lessons are taught live through the Microsoft Teams platform. Boys will need access to a PC or laptop (Windows or Apple), and ideally a printer/scanner unit (this is not essential but is very helpful).

If my son does not have digital or online access at home, how will the school support them to access remote education?

Any boys without access to a machine will be lent a school laptop. It may be possible to admit boys into school who do not have internet access at home. Cases will be assessed individually and will depend on whatever lockdown restrictions are in operation.

How will my son be taught remotely?

All lessons are taught live, with recordings available for boys who miss lessons through connection difficulties or other reasons. Teachers utilise textbooks which have been taken home by the boys or sent by the School Office, but always provide pdf files of any materials being used for boys who may be overseas. Preps are set and returned through the Teams platform. Extra-curricular and Extension activities are also delivered live, with recordings available for a limited time after the session. Some subjects (e.g. French, Mathematics etc.) direct pupils to on-line subject-specific sites to which the school subscribes.

What are your expectations for my son's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

Virtually Sussex House provides boys with a fully timetabled day in which they are actively engaged but also allowed appropriate rest periods to avoid fatigue. Boys are expected to log in to lessons on time, give their full attention 'in class' and to limit their use of the Teams platform to academic matters. Five preps per week are set and should be submitted (through Teams) by the deadline set by the teacher. Parents should not have to assist boys other than to ensure they have good access to *VSH* and are not interrupted during lessons.

How will you check whether my son is engaging with his work and how will I be informed if there are concerns?

Boys are monitored during lessons and through the work they are asked to submit (prep and in some cases class notes). If a teacher has concerns about a boy's participation, they will raise them with the Form Teacher and any further points will be

taken to the Heads of Middle and Lower School. Parents will be called in cases where adult supervision or a revision of the working environment is required.

How will you assess my son's work and progress?

Boys' prep will be marked and returned with both marks or grades and comments. Some subjects will run periodic tests and for senior year groups online end-of-term examinations will be held. Any teacher with on-going concerns about a boy's progress will refer to the Deputy Head (Academic), who will contact parents if necessary.

How will you deliver remote education for self-isolating pupils?

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate, but the majority of their peer group remains in school, the manner in which remote education is provided will likely differ from the approach for whole groups. This is due to the challenges of teaching pupils both at home and in school.

If my son is not in school because they are self-isolating, how will his remote education differ from the approaches described above?

Any boy self-isolating will be given work to do by his subject teachers and will be set prep through the Teams platform. If required Form Teachers will offer individualised support in the form of a video call via Teams.