

Remote Learning for St Dunstan's College Pupils

Introduction

St Dunstan's College remains proud of the high-quality education provided to pupils throughout the covid-19 pandemic, which included the running of our full timetable to pupils during national lockdowns and including into lessons pupils who were forced to isolate for covid-19 reasons but who were otherwise well and able to learn.

The legal requirement for schools to offer any alternative provision for pupils not in school due to covid-19 related reasons ended on 24 March 2022. The Department for Education encourages schools to prioritise face to face learning, and notes that the evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, as well as to the mental and physical health of young people. For further details please refer to the Department for Education's Schools Covid-19 operational guidance.

Hybrid Forms of Learning for Pupils

We have used the term 'hybrid learning' to refer to the situation where a class is being taught in-person and on-site by their usual teacher, but where one or more pupils are absent and have been included through Microsoft Teams into the live-lesson in real-time.

Although we are proud to have offered this over the past months for pupils, such hybrid teaching can create a less-beneficial learning environment for all pupils and has a detrimental impact onto the progress and learning of the majority of pupils who are accessing learning from school. This has been particularly the case for larger class sizes outside of our Sixth Form.

There is also considerable impact onto the teacher who is teaching pupils both on-site and online simultaneously.

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Covid-19 absences

From Michaelmas Term 2022, St Dunstan's will offer the following to Junior School pupils and Senior School students who are well enough to access learning but who are forced to remain at home due to covid-19:

1. With 24 hours' notice, pupils will be placed onto our 'Remote Learning Register' and teachers informed to prepare for remote learners from the next working day.
2. Lessons for Remote Learners can be any of the following:
 - a. Live streamed lessons from the College, with teachers including remote learners into as much of the on-site lesson as possible through 'hybrid learning.' This is particularly encouraged for Sixth Form lessons with smaller class sizes.
 - b. A 'check in' live with the teacher at the start of the lesson to go through the work to be completed by the isolating student during that timetabled period.

- c. Work set on Sharepoint or Microsoft Teams Assignments for each lesson which a student completes during the timetabled period and submits to the teacher at the end of the lesson.
- d. An email from the teacher to the student in advance of the lesson outlining the work to be completed at home and how this will be assessed.

Teachers will decide which of the above four options work best on a case-by-case basis, and their decision will be supported by the College. There is no obligation for teachers to offer 'hybrid learning' through live teaching or streaming of lessons if they consider this to be detrimental to the learning activities being undertaken by the pupils who are learning on-site.

3. Homework will be set as usual in line with the homework timetable.

If pupils are unwell, they must not engage with remote learning and concentrate on recuperation, rest, and recovery. Remote learning will aim to be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school. Pupils participating in live-streamed lessons, where these are offered, should adhere to the same behaviours as expected whilst in the classroom on-site.

All other absences

There may be exceptional circumstances where the College will facilitate remote learning for reasons outside of covid-19 isolation. These are approved on a case-by-case basis by the Junior or Senior School Leadership Team and are always time-limited. The maximum that would normally be agreed would be one school-week as a temporary supportive adjustment.

Review

The College will review its offer of remote learning to pupils regularly and will adapt its policy in line with the covid-19 pandemic, in particular to increase the amount of live hybrid forms of teaching offered if circumstances deem this necessary. This would be the case if a considerable proportion of pupils were required to isolate across a number of weeks, where entire year groups or cohorts required to isolate, or in the case of any return to national lockdown situations.