

Queensbury School

Wood End Road
Erdington
Birmingham
B24 8BL
Telephone: 0121 373 5731
Email: enquiry@queensbury.bham.sch.uk
Website: <https://www.queensburysch.com>



5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Further to the Prime Minister and Government announcement last night:

- " A **[new national lockdown](#)** will come into force at 00:01 on Wednesday 6 January 2021.
- During the period of national lockdown, schools, alternative provision, special schools, and colleges will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of **[critical workers](#)** only.
- Public vocational exams and assessments scheduled to take place in January will go ahead as planned.
- All other children and students will learn remotely until February half term."

(Source - Department for Education 04/01/21)

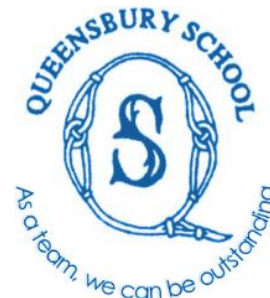
- 1) **Remote Learning**: Queensbury School will be closed for students in all class groups and teach through our remote learning until further guidance from Government. More information in this letter.
- 2) **Vulnerable and Critical Worker Children**: The school will be open each school day, providing education for Critical Worker (Key Worker) children and those vulnerable at risk students. If you believe your child is in this category then you can contact wellbeing@queensbury.bham.sch.uk or complete the 'Critical Worker' online form, off the school home page. <https://queensburysch.com/>. The curriculum will follow a broad balanced routine with core lessons and non-core subjects. They will be in two new class bubbles of no more than 12 students, with relevant staff to support needs. These will have different year group children in them but we have matched abilities best we can. The temporary classes are called: **Believe** and **Achieve**.
- 3) **Training Days**: The school has postponed its training days due to the lockdown.
- 4) **Testing**: For those students in school, we will be completing weekly tests (*Subject to parental consent*). Once again, the more students and staff we can test, the safer we know our environment is. We have now managed to set up testing and had all our staff tested. Staff will be working in schools on a rota and will be tested weekly to enhance our risk management of the site.
- 5) **Parent Workshops**: We have developed a team of staff to provide future virtual workshops and online support for parents in remote learning using Zoom and Purple Mash. We will communicate more information on this progress as it develops. Mrs Gill will be in contact.



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Re: Remote Education Provision: Information for Parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to students and parents/carers about what to expect from remote education if local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home.

For details of what to expect where individual students are self-isolating, please see the final section of this page.

The Remote Curriculum: What Is Taught to Students At Home

A student's first day or two of being educated remotely might look different from our standard approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a longer period of remote teaching.

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

Students will use the below sites to aid their learning in the first instance when they are sent home. There is a range of activities and resources on these sites, please feel free to contact the child's form tutor for further guidance if required.

- <https://www.purplemash.com/sch/queensbury>,
- <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>
- <https://classroom.thenational.academy/>
- <https://members.gcsepod.com/login>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle>

Following the first few days of remote education, will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school and what would this look like?

Upon the event of a whole class or bubble closure, students' education will continue using a range of online platforms, Zoom will be used to stream lessons (two lessons per day) and for the remainder of the lessons each day, students will be set online learning activities using Purple Mash. Please see below the plan for live streaming lessons each day during a class or bubble closure;

- Live stream lesson one – 9:15am -10:25am
- Live stream lesson two – 10:40am -11:50am
- Learning activities for the remainder of each day will be available on Purple Mash
- Form time welfare catch-up – 14.45pm -15.05pm



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Accessing Remote Education

How will my child access any online remote education you are providing?

All live streamed lessons will be on 'Zoom' and the afternoon activities will be set on Purple Mash. A text message, email or message via Weduc will be sent to you to let you know the log in details for the Zoom live streamed lessons. All log in details for purple Mash has been shared with students and parents, if you need a copy of these please contact your child's form tutor.

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

For students who do not have internet access, where resources are available; the school will provide either electronic equipment or paper copies of the students' learning activities. Please can we ask that parents get in touch with their child's form tutor as soon as possible if they are having problems accessing online remote learning.

Engagement and Feedback

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

Assuming they are well enough to work, students are expected to:

- Complete all work set for them and submitting work which is requested for feedback promptly.
- Check Purple Mash regularly and read and respond to communication from the school.
- Ensure that their IT equipment is fully charged and accessible at the start of each day. Where students experience problems with IT systems they should proactively inform their form tutor to seek advice and support.
- Log into Zoom each day and virtually attend their two streamed lessons in the morning and the form time welfare catch up.

What are your expectations regarding the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

Parents/Carers can support the School:

- By ensuring that their child attempts the home learning set.
- By providing a suitable place for their child to carry out their home learning – try to avoid all obvious distractions, TV, radio, phone calls, text messages etc.



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- By encouraging and praising their child when they have attempted/completed the home learning.
- By becoming actively involved and supporting their child with their home learning activities.
- By making it clear that they value the home learning activities and that they support the school by explaining how it can help their child's learning.

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

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are also valid and effective methods, amongst many others. Our approach to feeding back on student work is as follows:

On Purple Mash student's work will be marked and written feedback given. During live streamed lessons students will be given verbal feedback throughout and staff will design opportunities for students to complete quizzes/verbal question and answer sessions and where appropriate students will be invited to write their answers in the comment box (on Zoom). In the event of an end of topic test the staff member will either email out the test or post it, for the student/s to complete and send back to school for marking/written feedback.

Remote Education for Self-Isolating Students

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

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

Students will need to log into Purple Mash and complete activities that are set for them. If they are unable to access this or would prefer paper activities, please can you contact their form tutor as soon as possible and request a work pack to be sent home.

Please follow the latest Government guidance and continue this over the forthcoming weeks, as it is vital that we continue this united approach.

Yours sincerely

Mr Chris Wilson
Executive Head Teacher



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