NUAST – Remote Learning Guidance January 2021

Following the recent Government updates and the move to a third national lockdown, it has become necessary to update our approach to remote learning. At NUAST our focus is on providing high quality work for our students that closely mirrors the planned learning that would have taken place had students been attending lessons as normal. Work will be set on Microsoft TEAMS, and will be 'live' where at all possible to maximise student engagement and also to provide effective feedback to students. We see this as being critical to the successful delivery of remote learning, and appreciate all the support offered by parents with this. Where parents report issues with access to remote learning due to IT provision we will support parents and students with loan equipment where possible and we will provide work packs to students as required. Our 'ideal' position will be that all students will be able to access lessons via a device at home.

We understand the importance of the need to maintain contact with students throughout the period of remote learning, and we will be continuing to provide tutorial periods across all year groups. In addition pastoral support staff and Heads of Year will make calls home to carryout pastoral and welfare checks. Safeguarding concerns can be raised by staff or students using the existing safeguarding systems or students can self-refer using the student and wellbeing tab on the school website. For academic concerns students should contact class teachers or pastoral staff where further support is needed.

We have had to react to guidance for the current circumstances from the DfE and Government and it is likely that this guidance will change again over the coming weeks as the COVID situation develops nationally. We will continue to monitor the situation and will adjust our approach as required to ensure that at all times our provision is able to support the learning and welfare of our students.

In developing our plans for remote education, we will:

- deliver a broad and ambitious curriculum in line with that would have been taught in a 'normal' school situation
- give students access to high quality remote education resources
- select the online tools that will be consistently be used across the school in order to allow interaction, assessment and feedback
- make sure staff are trained in the use of online learning platforms
- provide printed resources, such as textbooks and workbooks, for pupils who do not have suitable online access
- recognise that younger pupils and some pupils with SEND may not be able to access remote education without adult support and we will work with families to support them with remote education or will provide education in school through the Keyworker/Vulnerable students arrangements.

When teaching remotely, we will:

- teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with clarity about what is intended to be taught and practiced in each subject
- provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher in the school or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos that will be supported by teachers in school.
- provide live lessons that reflect a student's normal 'in school' timetable except where a member of teaching staff is needed in school to support the teaching of keyworker/vulnerable children. If a teacher is needed in school, resources and information will be loaded to Teams for the lesson
- use online tools (e.g. TEAMS) consistently across the school in order to allow interaction, assessment and feedback, and we will make sure staff are trained in their use
- make sure teachers are available to support students through TEAMS or email

- measure how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum, using questions and other suitable tasks
- enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding
- plan a programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school
- establish an infrastructure where teachers can monitor (with HoDs support) the engagement of their pupils (using insights) and monitor attendance at 'live' lessons
- follow up non-attendance to establish reasons in order to identify and solve issues around online learning access
- Follow the normal school timetable for lessons

In reading the above and by answering the questions below, we hope that you will understand our approach to remote learning for students whilst face to face teaching is not possible and why we have adopted it.

My household does not have wi-fi and/or adequate devices at home. What can I do to make remote learning easier for them?

There are a number of Government schemes which we are involved in which aim to improve access for students in this situation. Please get in touch with Mr Tapp or Mr Edwards if you have difficulty in accessing remote teaching.

How can I see the work that has been set and how well my son/daughter has been engaging?

We will contact you if there are concerns over the engagement of a student. This will be by the class teacher or department lead in the first instance, but the relevant pastoral team where issues persist. We have been grateful for the support and proactivity that parents have offered in response to such concerns since the initial period of lockdown in March 2020.

How can I best support my son/daughter as part of their remote learning?

This period of lockdown will be a challenging for students, regardless of their previous progress and focus on their learning. As parents you know them better than anyone, and encouragement should be supplemented with reminders where they are needed. Following normal classroom routines and accessing the help of their subject teachers will also be very helpful.

Where can I find out more information about remote learning and the expectations placed on schools?

Please use the following links to understand more about expectations of schools and helping to ensure that your child is able to learn safely online.

- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2
- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak
- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/remote-education-good-practice
- https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-remote-education-support-for-schools-colleges-and-teachers
- https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/march/undertaking-remote-teaching-safely
- https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/safe-remote-learning/safe-remote-learning/