



Remote Learning Narrative

Autumn 2020- Summer 2021

September 2020

- Remote Learning Plan in place – members of SLT assigned to developing this area at St Mary's. Students, staff, parents, carers and governors are kept informed of progress and new ways of working.
- In order to support remote learning at St Mary's, 143 laptops loaned to students across Years 7-13 from September 2020. Students continue to loan these laptops.
- During the January – March lockdown, in terms of support for the most vulnerable students, pastoral staff checked in with these students by phone each day and LSAs did the same with our EHCP students.
- In addition, if any vulnerable students have had to self-isolate this year, pastoral staff have kept in touch with these students, as above.
- Students retained a sense of the community identity of the school via interaction with their Year Tutor, Form Tutor and subject teachers on the Teams tiles via video and scheduled Teams meetings.

Autumn Term – Half-term 1

- Students were beginning to self-isolate again and work was set on Teams for these students – students worked an hour behind the timetabled time, so that staff could upload materials and audio/video explanation at the end of the lesson. This delay also meant that students would be at the same point as the class once they returned, as the PowerPoint would be tailored to the content actually covered in that lesson.
- Students self-isolating were also able to contact their teachers during the lesson and outside lesson time to ask for further clarification. Naturally, teachers were not always able to use the Chat facility on Teams during their lesson, as most students were in the classroom, but teachers checked Teams every couple of days to pick up student queries.
- Students were able to be contacted by teachers using the Chat facility on Teams, for example if they had not submitted homework and parents were also contacted via the MyEd app and by phone, as usual.
- All homework was set on Teams and marked there, so that students, whether at home or school received their feedback and marks electronically.
- Staff training was ongoing for effective use of the Teams platform, new to the school.
- Students were also provided with many different generic sources of learning and revision via our website.

See Remote Plan for students self-isolating November 2020.

Autumn Term – Half-term 2

- Staff training ongoing and included the use of live streaming of lessons – groups of staff trialled live learning for sixth form and for Year 10 and 11 groups, with a view to teaching all Sixth Form who were self-isolating 'live' across the school from January 2021.
- High levels of staff and student absence and self-isolation were a feature of November and December 2020 at St Mary's.
- High quality lessons, including audio and video explanations, continued to be set via Teams, as above.

Remote Learning in Term 1 was reviewed via pastoral team communication with parents, SLT link work with HODs and HOD link work with their departments. Students were able to raise issues with their Form Tutor during Form Time or Pastoral Programme time and via their Teams tile.

January 2021

Spring Term – Half-term 3

- Staff returned for INSET day on 4th January, the entire day was focused on training for remote learning on Teams. National lockdown announced that night.
- High quality remote lessons continued to be set via Teams with full audio explanation and staff training was intensified so that all staff could teach live lessons to all students, not just the sixth form, as had been planned. This training involved face to face sessions in school, socially distanced, remote live training

sessions and recorded videos stored on Teams for staff to access multiple times. Students also received training via video on Teams.

- **Remote Teaching and Learning Handbook** issued to parents/carers, students and staff for teaching **from 18th January 2021**. This remote learning plan meant that students were following their actual timetable at home with members of staff giving live explanations and full live lessons, as well as sharing resources and revision materials. Pastoral support via Form Tutors was provided for students at their weekly pastoral programme lessons and attendance was monitored via the downloading of attendance lists. PE activities were also available for students on their Year Group tile.
- The new remote offer included live learning for all students and full live lessons for all sixth form students. This was very well received by our parents and students – **see Parental Feedback January – March 2021**.
- Vulnerable students and children of critical workers attended school during the lockdown and were supported to follow their 'live' lessons with their individual subject teachers. Students worked in bubble groups in computer rooms and were supplied with their own headphones.
- During the lockdown SEND/vulnerable students were supported by the pastoral team, as previously, and by Learning Support Assistants, who made regular calls to the student and their family, many of these students attended school.
- Technical support for students could be accessed via the student helpdesk in the relevant Year Group tile on Teams.
- All homework continued to be set on Teams and marked there, so that students, whether at home or school received their feedback and marks electronically.

Remote Learning in Term 2 was reviewed via a Parental Feedback exercise carried out online – see Evaluation of Remote Learning at St Mary's- Parental Feedback, as above. Engagement of students was monitored via attendance lists at live lessons and pastoral follow up.

Feedback was also encouraged via communication with the pastoral team by phone and on Teams, systems were evaluated via SLT link work with HODs and in collaborative work between HODs and their department teams.

Spring Term – Half-term 4 onwards

- All students and staff returned to school for the full re-opening of schools on 8th March 2021.
- From this point, students who were self-isolating were taught live, in real timetable time, by their teachers via Teams. For sixth form, this involved being part of a full live lesson and for younger year groups, students at home joined the class via Teams for key explanations and completed the same work as the students in school.
- Technical support for students continued to be accessed via the student helpdesk in the relevant Year Group tile on Teams, as previously.
- Cover work was also set via Teams and this included live lessons home to school from a small number of staff who were working at home or self-isolating themselves. To cover for absent colleagues, live lessons were also shared in more than one classroom with a cover teacher present, to ensure that students did not fall behind and were at the same point as other students, whose teacher had not been absent.
See Cover Lessons booklet – Teachers, March 2021.
- As previously, students self-isolating were also able to contact their teachers during the lesson and outside lesson time to ask for further clarification. Naturally, teachers were not always able to use the Chat facility on Teams during their lesson as most students were in the classroom, but teachers checked Teams every couple of days to pick up student queries.
- Students were able to be contacted by teachers using the Chat facility on Teams, for example if they had not submitted homework and parents were also contacted via the MyEd app and phone, in the usual way.
- All homework continued to be set on Teams and marked there, so that students, whether at home or school received their feedback and marks electronically.

See Remote Learning Plan for students who are self-isolating, March 2021.

Blended learning from March onwards is to be reviewed via a student survey and also the new system for cover and live lessons via Teams is to be evaluated with teachers before September 2021.

