

School Improvement Service

Daily Covid briefing

Wednesday 6th January 2021

- Gavin Williamson has spoken in Parliament this afternoon and made several announcements which are summarised below:
- SATs are cancelled for 2021.
- GCSE and A Level grades will be decided by the schools where pupils attend. We await more guidance on this.
- Extra funding for schools to provide food parcels or meals to eligible pupils; where this is not possible, a national voucher scheme will be re-introduced. He did not specify how much funding will be made available.
- Those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education (such as no laptop or quiet place to study) have been added to the list of vulnerable children able to attend school - [read guidance here](#).
- Testing for COVID-19 will continue in Secondary Schools.

Read the full speech here: https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-statement-to-parliament-on-national-lockdown?utm_source=92199ad1-9033-45b1-9933-f7650572d117&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Following this a statement has been released, view here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-secretary-outlines-plans-to-support-young-people?utm_source=63a83061-1c4c-4a55-97b4-f4b047d7b631&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Remote Learning Support & Monitoring

We recognise that you will all be in the process of implementing remote support for your pupils to ensure that their learning continues. We have already seen some fantastic remote support happening across our schools. Next week we will be issuing our NYCC School Improvement guidance support & model school policy (which you will have the option of adopting) in alignment with Government expectations. Our School Improvement Advisors will be in touch with School Leaders to evaluate the level of support you have in place, strengths & barriers. From this, we will be providing bespoke support where needed to ensure that you are fully supported in your remote learning journey.

Current guidance provided from the DFE is below (Please note we are expecting a further update on this tomorrow)

The [get help with remote education](#) portal provides information, guidance and support on educating pupils and students during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Additional information includes:

- [Statutory Obligations](#) and expectations
- [Safeguarding Procedures](#)
- Supporting pupils with [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\)](#)

Useful resources

- <https://my.chartered.college/2020/04/selected-links-free-online-and-paper-based-home-learning-tools-and-resources/>
- The EEF have produced a helpful guide for schools – here
- **Headrest** - This website has been set up by system leaders to support the well-being of Headteachers and Principals. It has as a strapline 'a safety device to support the head' and is worth having a look at. <https://www.headrestuk.co.uk/>