



St Thomas of Aquin's – Remote Learning

FAQs – Frequently Asked Questions

#	Year	Theme	Question	Answer
1	S4-6	Assessment	What school work is taken into consideration for the assessment that Teachers will make?	The SQA continues to work with schools regarding assessment updates and on a return to schools, pupils will be assessed in line with the SQA's Nat5, Highers and Advanced Higher assessment procedures. The focus on online learning in January and February is the delivery of quality learning for pupils. Ms Mariani will keep pupils and parents updated with any information from SQA
2	S4-6	Assessment	What will happen about Prelims?	We are planning to hold prelims when pupils return to schools, if the reopening plans allow for year group returns. How prelims are held will depend on the format of re-opening schools.
3	S4-6	Assessment	What is happening about exams?	All N5, H, and AH formal exams have been cancelled for session 2020-21. We are still awaiting guidance from Scot Gov and SQA on the structure of assessments. We will communicate with pupils and parents as soon as we have further information.
4	S4-6	Assessment	What proportion of time should pupils be concentrating on new work and what proportion on revision?	Teachers are using Education Scotland's guidance and delivering new materials to support progression in their subjects. As soon as we find out about the structure of assessment, we will provide more information on what pupils need to revise and the timescales.
5	S4-6	Assessment	When might we know about Higher assessment arrangements?	All secondary schools are waiting for the SQA to give updates on N5, H, and AH assessment arrangements. When schools are updated with SQA assessment arrangements we will contact parents. We will communicate with pupils and parents as soon as we have further information.
7	S1-3	Learning	How much learning should my child be doing?	As per Education Scotland guidance and detailed in the St Thomas' RL policy, pupils should be studying around 15 to 20 hours a week. This equates to around 3 hours minimum a day.
8	All	Learning	Will the school be providing recorded lessons?	Our vision is for as many staff to be providing high quality learning experiences as possible which will include as many engaging recorded experiences or links to recorded experiences as possible.



9	S1-3	Learning	Will the school be providing live lessons or live interactions?	St Thomas' has focussed on ensuring that S4, S5, and S6 pupils as receiving as many live interactions from Faculties. Faculties are now providing 55 learning interactions from N5 to AH level. Some Faculties have started to provide live interactions for S3 pupils. St Thomas' will be using Education Scotland's Learner Entitlements to look at further developments for the BGE (S1-3).
10	S4-6	Learning	Will the school be providing live lessons or live interactions?	St Thomas' has focussed on ensuring that S4, S5, and S6 pupils as receiving as many live interactions from Faculties as possible.
11	All	Learning	What proportion of the lessons or interaction will be live?	The structure of St Thomas' Remote Learning is providing quality learning materials which can be accessed and completed by pupils throughout the week; pupils should have their queries answered by specialist staff daily, and staff will ensure detailed feedback is shared with pupils to improve their learning. Live interactions are being delivered in the senior phase. St Thomas' will be using Education Scotland's Learner Entitlements to look at further developments for the BGE (S1-3)
12	All	Learning	How is the work provided to the pupils?	Every Monday morning, pupils can access their learning and assignments via MS Teams.
13	S1-3	Learning	Will video enabled live lessons be provided?	St Thomas' has focussed on ensuring that S4, S5, and S6 pupils as receiving as many live interactions from Faculties. Faculties are now providing 55 learning interactions from N5 to AH level. Some Faculties have started to provide live interactions for S3 pupils. Some of these live interactions will have video enabled learning experiences.
14	S4-6	Learning	Will video enabled live lessons be provided?	St Thomas' has focussed on ensuring that S4, S5, and S6 pupils as receiving as many live interactions from Faculties. Faculties are now providing 55 learning interactions from N5 to AH level. Some Faculties have started to provide live interactions for S3 pupils. Some of these live interactions will have video enabled learning experiences.
15	All	Learning	How can parents find/access teacher feedback on work submitted by pupils?	Ask your child/children to show you their MS Teams subject page. Go to the assignment tab at the top of the page and click on this to show the work completed by your child and the feedback given by Teachers.



16	All	Learning	How can parents raise a concern that pupils aren't receiving feedback on submitted work?	If you are concerned with your child not receiving feedback, please contact the school via Admin and this can be passed onto the Curricular Leader. Here is the link to the contact page for the school and the process of communication https://www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk/contact-details/
17	All	Learning	How does the school plan to adapt their approach to live interactions to ensure pupils are kept motivated?	St Thomas' will continue to develop the Remote Learning experience by sharing good practice amongst staff, support staff with professional development, listening and acting upon the views of parents and pupils and looking outwards to the good practice of other schools in Edinburgh Council and other Councils in Scotland.
18	All	Learning	Can teachers ensure they're directing pupils to trusted and reliable resources (checking the links are still live) when issuing work?	Of course, we will endeavour to get our communication as simple and efficient as possible.
19	All	Learning	What is St Thomas's view of its online learning provision in relation to that offered by comparator schools? Is there a reason that St Thomas's seems to be offering less interactive learning and teaching?	St Thomas' has improved the Remote Learning experience from Lockdown 1 and is aspirational in continuing to improve the Remote Learning in this Lockdown. The school is improving its online presentation in terms of recorded delivery and we are delivering a breadth and depth of live interactions in the senior phase. The parent and pupil survey will identify areas which we could improve on and as a collegiate school community we will evaluate where such improvements can be made. St Thomas has a catchment area 1/3rd of Edinburgh and with so many schools which St Thomas' can be compared with in terms of size, Social Index of Multiple Deprivation, Free School Meal entitlement, SQA exam results, Inclusion and Equality, and Learning and Teaching, we wish to share our good practice and learn from all Edinburgh Secondary Schools.
20	All	Learning	Why is the live learning that is on offer optional?	St Thomas is following the Education Scotland and Edinburgh Learns guidance on Remote Learning by supporting a blend of learning - (add in page 2 paragraph of Education Scotland RL policy). Please go to the school's online learning opportunities page at the school website to read the Education Scotland and Edinburgh Learns policies.



21	S4-6	Learning	How much learning should my child be doing?	As per Education Scotland guidance and detailed in the St Thomas' RL policy, pupils should be studying around 20 to 25 hours a week. This equates to around 4 hours minimum a day.
45	All	Microsoft Teams	How does my child access Teams?	All pupils have access to MS Teams and we have also placed information for Parents on the school website to support MS Teams understanding. Please go to the school website and click on Online Learning Opportunities. https://www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk/online-learning-opportunities/
46	All	Microsoft Teams	Can I access Teams myself as the parent without accessing it through my child?	MS Teams class groups are centred around Pupil/Teacher interaction and your child can show you all their MS Teams classes. As a parent I sit down once a day and go through each of my children's MS Teams work to offer support.
22	All	Return to School/Blended	When will we know when the pupils can come back to school?	The Scottish Government will lead on when it is appropriate for schools to reopen and will co-plan with Local Authorities in how plans to reopen schools safely. We will provide parents with as much notice as possible and this will be communicated by email and also text.
23	All	Return to School/Blended	If lockdown is extended when will we know?	The Scottish Government has daily briefings on its Coronavirus 19 plans. The next statement by The First Minister is on Tuesday 2nd of February. The First Minister makes statements every 3 weeks. We will provide parents with as much notice as possible and this will be communicated by email and also text.
24	All	Return to School/Blended	What are your plans for a blended model e.g. 50% in class, 50% remote learning?	Plans for blended learning are dependent on how The Scottish Government decides to reopen schools safely. Last term all pupils were in school with pupils in year bubbles. If a 2-metre rule is introduced for the return of pupils to the St Thomas building then the school can only have 1/3rd of pupils in on classes. The Health and safety Team measured all classrooms in June 2020 to know what can be achieved with a 2-metre rule. St Thomas' will work in partnership with CEC to identify how other areas of the school and other premises can be used to achieve a 50% pupil population return. Blended Learning plans will be dependent on how schools will be reopened by The Scottish Government.



25	All	Support	My child is struggling with remote learning, how do I get support for them?	Please email the school Admin team and they will put you in touch with your child's Pupil Support Leader who will discuss ways to support your child remotely through the Integrated Support Team. It is important that in the first instance pupils seek support from their class teacher through Microsoft Teams. Here is the link to the contact page for the school and the process of communication https://www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk/contact-details/
26	All	Support	I can't help my child with remote learning – how can I get help?	Please email the school Admin team and they will put you in touch with your child's Pupil Support Leader who will discuss ways to support your child remotely through the Integrated Support Team. It is important that in the first instance pupils seek support from their class teacher through Microsoft Teams. Here is the link to the contact page for the school and the process of communication https://www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk/contact-details/
27	All	Support	English is not my first language – can I get language support?	Please email the school Admin team and they will put you in touch with your child's Pupil Support Leader who will liaise with the English as an Additional Language service. Here is the link to the contact page for the school and the process of communication https://www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk/contact-details/
28	All	Support	How do I access Hub school support for my child?	Please contact the Senior Leadership Team for support and advice. https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-school-re-opening-arrangements-for-january-2021/pages/children-of-keyworkers/ . Please contact the school admin for access to the SLT. Here is the link to the contact page for the school and the process of communication https://www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk/contact-details/
29	All	Support	My child has additional support needs, how can I get them more support?	Please contact the School Admin Team and they will put you in contact with The Support for Learning Faculty who may be able to offer remote individual and group support through telephone or Teams calls. Here is the link to the contact page for the school and the process of communication https://www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk/contact-details/
30	All	Support	We don't have broadband at home, what help is there?	Here is a link to the government support that is available
31	All	Support	My child doesn't have a device, what can I do?	Please contact the School Admin Team and they will assist you with a device.



32	All	Support	My child gets free school meals, how do I access this support?	Free School Meal entitlement should be in place for families with direct support coming from the Council. If you need support then please contact St Thomas' Business manager, Mrs Ritchie. Here is the link to the contact page for the school and the process of communication https://www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk/contact-details/
33	All	Support	My child is feeling isolated doing remote learning. Is there anything I can do to help them connect with others from the school?	Every Tuesday pupils can access their Pupil Support Leader on MS Teams. It is also useful for children to phone or text friends on a regular basis and follow the Scottish Government advice on who they can meet up with for a socially distanced wellbeing walk. St Thomas' will be using Education Scotland's Learner Entitlements to look at further developments for the BGE (S1-3)
34	All	Support	What can parents do to help?	Parents can help by supporting a daily structure for their children which includes a healthy breakfast/lunch/dinner and a routine of school work and health and wellbeing breaks. Have a clear end of the day structure away from screens. It's helpful to encourage your child to access educational material including historical films, documentaries etc. BBC are providing content daily on television and on BBC iPlayer.
35	All	Support	Who do I contact (and how) if I have a concern or question about one of my children.	Please contact the Admin team at the school. Details of how to contact the school can be found here: (see Contacting the school) https://www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk/contact-details/
36	All	Support	What does this abbreviation mean? ...	Connect Scotland has a list of abbreviations used in Scottish Education (found here: https://connect.scot/application/files/7515/6623/2198/E_E1_A_list_of_Acronyms_used_in_Scottish_Education_2019__FINAL.pdf) If there are other abbreviations you don't understand, please email stthomasofaquinpc@gmail.com and we'll find out, reply and add it to the glossary
37		Support	Please ensure all abbreviations are written in full on first use - one parent received an email with the abbreviation SSL, which we can't find in Connects Glossary.	Of course, we will endeavour to get our communication as simple and efficient as possible.
38	All	Support	Can school use phrases rather than abbreviations in communications to parents?	Of course, we will endeavour to get our communication as simple and efficient as possible.



39	All	Support	Is there anything that we can do as parents to help the school at this challenging time?	The St Thomas community is working well in partnership with one another and by having open compassionate dialogue we will continue to get it right for all pupils. Please continue to support the school by looking after you and your children's wellbeing. Please become a member of the Parent Council if you wish to support further and by joining one of the Parent Council sub groups supporting school improvement. You can contact the Parent Council on stthomasofaquinpc@gmail.com. We also have a Twitter Account @AquinPC
40	All	Teacher Interaction	How does my child ask questions from their teachers?	Pupils can use the "Ask the Teacher" icon on MS Teams to contact their Teacher. Staff are working really hard to ensure queries are answered as quickly as possible and detailed feedback is given to pupils. "Ask the Teacher" is a private conversation with the Teacher and can't be seen by the whole class. Some teachers are using email with their class.
41	All	Teacher Interaction	How can I as a parent/carer ask questions from the teachers to assist my child?	Please ask your child to directly ask the Teacher questions to support their learning, this will be the most efficient way to have questions answered. Here is the link to the contact page for the school and the process of communication https://www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk/contact-details/
42	All	Teacher interaction	Are there set times when the teachers are available?	Teachers are available to support pupils' learning during school times 8.30-3.30 on Monday to Thursdays and 8.30-1.20 on Fridays. The S4-6 live interactions will further support pupils learning.
43	All	Teacher interaction	How can pupils contact their pupils privately rather than on the group chat?	Pupils can use the "Ask the Teacher" icon on MS Teams to contact their Teacher. They can access this through a private conversation this way on Teams. Some teachers have asked pupils to also email them directly on their school email.
44	All	Teacher Interaction	Will the teachers have set drop-in times when pupils know they are available?	St Thomas has developed 55 live interactive sessions for S4, S5 and S6 pupils. Pupils in S1, S2, and S3 can contact their Teachers via MS Teams if they have queries or questions needing answered.
47	S1-3	Timetable	Does my child need to be available at a certain time?	S1-S3 pupils can use the flexible timetable to complete their work and can be supported by their Teachers throughout the week.



48	S4-6	Timetable	Does my child need to be available at a certain time?	S4, S5, and S6 pupils have a live interaction timetable that they can follow and are invited to. These times are set and we are sharing the live interaction on the school website.
49	S1-3	Timetable	Is there a timetable that my child should be following?	S1-S3 pupils can use the flexible TT to complete their work and can be supported by their Teachers throughout the week.
50	S4-6	Timetable	Is there a timetable that my child should be following?	S4, S5, and S6 pupils have a live interaction timetable that they can follow and are invited to. These times are set and we are sharing the live interaction on the school website.