

Question and Answer

for Parents/Guardians about Online Teaching during the period of school closure

Q When will online lessons begin for primary, middle and secondary schools?

A All online lessons in all state schools will start on Monday 15th March 2021 at the normal school starting time.

Q Who are the online lesson for?

A These lessons are for all students attending kinder, primary, middle and secondary schools. Lessons that were taking place at school, will for the time being, continue online together with the current class teacher/s.

Q What do I need to follow online lessons?

A You will need a device that is able to connect to the internet such as a laptop, tablet or smartphone. You should ideally have already installed the app *Microsoft Teams*. It is important for a student to know his/her school *email* (ending in '@ilearn.edu.mt') and *password*.

Q How will students receive school announcements?

A MySchool is going to be an essential tool. For this type of information, together with any type of communication sent by the school, you will need to refer to *MySchool* (<http://mis.edu.mt>). We recommend that you check your announcements on MySchool every morning.

Q Where can I find guidelines on how to access an iLearn account?

A Students can access their iLearn account and they all have a valid *username* and *password*. Follow these guidelines by accessing:
<https://digitalliteracy.skola.edu.mt/secondaryfaq/how-do-i-access-office-365-apps/>.

Q Where do I find information on how to access MS TEAMS?

A Simple [guidelines](#) and videos are available. These explain the tools and how they are used in online teaching. You can access these guidelines by accessing the site:
<https://digitalliteracy.skola.edu.mt/secondaryfaq/how-do-i-use-microsoft-teams-for-students/>

Q What shall I do if I have difficulties related to the *password*?

A For difficulties related to the password, you need to contact your school where you will be able to get the help needed.

Q Will there be a *timetable* for lessons?

A Yes, there will be a timetable that the lessons will follow.

Q Where can I find this *timetable*?

A The timetable for primary students will vary from one school to another and will be given by the class teacher or school administration. The timetable for middle and secondary school students can be found on (<http://mis.edu.mt>).

Q How will students access online lessons?

A You need to go to Microsoft Teams from your device just like you would do if you were at school. If you are a primary school student, enter your class and follow your timetable. If you attend a middle or secondary school, keep the assigned starting times of the timetable and enter the group according to the lesson.

Q Will students be able to access and leave lessons when they please?

A No. In order for the teaching and learning to be consistent and of quality everyone needs to follow the online timetable and the allotted times. Students are also expected to behave appropriately and not disturb or distract others.

Q Where can students follow lessons from and what should they wear?

A Lessons need to be followed from a noise and distraction free location. Students need to dress appropriately.

Q Can parents follow lessons with their children?

A Particularly with children of a young age, there should be an adult close by that can supervise. However, it is of utmost importance that only students communicate during lessons. Only students are to ask and answer questions.

Q Can I find guidance on how to access, work, find and upload work on Microsoft Teams?

A Yes, follow the guidelines on: https://youtu.be/W_97WKIsTA0

Q Can I find guidance to access *My School*?

A Yes, follow the guidelines on: <https://digitalliteracy.skola.edu.mt/secondaryfaq/how-do-i-access-myschool/>

Q At what time will the lessons take place?

A Lessons will continue to follow the school timetable. They will be slightly shorter so that there is a break between lessons.

Q How long will lessons be?

A The length of lessons for students at primary level will be according to the current school timetable but will include more frequent breaks. This will be communicated through the class teacher or school administration. For early years (from Kinder to Year 2) the timetable will be more flexible. There will be breaks between activities/lessons to ensure focus and interest from students during the actual activities/lessons.

A Each lesson in middle and secondary schools will be 35 minutes long. During these lessons, there will be 20 minutes of direct contact and 15 minutes of other activities, such as *classwork*.

Q Why will lessons be shorter?

A There are a number of reasons including the fact that it is not healthy for a person to be in front of a screen for a very long time. Lessons that are too long lack effectiveness and students tend to lose interest.

Q Will all subjects be taught?

A Yes, all subjects will be taught.

Q What can I expect from online teaching?

A Class and subject teachers will be continuing teaching online instead of face-to-face teaching in class.

Q Does this mean that they will continue teaching according to their syllabi?

A Yes, teaching will continue and it will follow the respective syllabus.

Q Will children see their teacher and their friends?

A Yes, they will be able to do this through Microsoft Teams. Teachers may ask students to keep their cameras on.

Q In primary schools, will there be science, art, music, PE and PSCD?

A The teachers for these subjects will be delivering lessons according to a timetable issued by the administration of the respective school.

Q Will LSEs keep supporting students and how will this be done?

A Yes, the same LSEs that are currently offering support in class will be present to give their support online. Microsoft Teams allows an LSE to communicate with students individually or in small groups, where needed.

Q Will there be *assembly*?

A A school may opt to have an assembly where they can gather the whole school or groups of students according to their needs. These details will be communicated by the school administration.

Q Will students' attendance be taken?

A Yes, teachers will be taking an online attendance everyday through *MySchool*. As per normal practice, it is important to inform the school administration if a student will not be attending school. A reason needs to be given.

Q Will homework be assigned?

A Yes, homework will be assigned by the teacher and it will also be corrected.

Q Will assessment continue to take place?

A Yes, assessment will continue during online teaching and learning.

Q Will students will able to contact Guidance teachers and Counsellors?

A Yes, wherever needed, students and parents can contact school administration by email or telephone and they will be given an online appointment.

Q What happens if a teacher is sick?

A If a teacher is not available to deliver lessons due to illness or other reasons, parents/students will be informed through an announcement on MySchool (<http://mis.edu.mt>). It is important to follow these announcements on MySchool regularly.

Q Do the mock exams that students in year 11 have already taken, count?

A Yes, exams that took place from Monday 8th until Friday 12th March 2021 count. Scripts will be marked and marks will be awarded.

Q Will the mock exams for students in year 11 which had to happen from Monday 15th March still happen?

A The exams that have not happened due to school closure will continue when schools reopen during this scholastic year.

Q Can we communicate with educators at any time?

A Educators will be teaching and doing school related work during school hours and their working hours. They are therefore not expected to reply outside of these working hours and contact with them needs to follow normal procedures.

Q Till when will schools be closed?

A Schools will be closed and learning will happen online until 11th April 2021 or according to directions given closer to that date.

Q What will happen to students who attend the virtual school?

A Primary school students that have been attending the virtual school during this scholastic year will continue to do so. Middle school and secondary school students needs to choose a programme that best suits them and remain in it. The timetables of the virtual school and the online school will not match and no changes can happen to avoid clashes.

Q Will students in year 11 have lessons?

A Students in year 11, who were currently sitting for mock exams, can communicate with their teachers or school administrations to continue being given support and in their preparations, according to the timetable of their various subjects.

Q Are there recorded lessons?

A Yes, you can find lessons which are being recorded during this scholastic year. These are accessible on demand on 'Recorded Lessons' through the site teleskola.mt.

Q Do I pay for lessons on demand?

A No. These lessons are available to anyone for free. They can be accessed at any time and as frequently as needed.

Q Are there any other lessons and resources?

A Yes. Just go to teleskola.mt where you can access them for free, at any time, and as frequently as needed.

Q Will I be able to speak to someone at school?

A Yes, the school will be open online. Just as you could contact the school previously, you will be able to do so now, whilst the school is online.