



Hillside Specialist School & College

Providing exceptional education for all students

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Dear Parents and Carers

The recent Government statement by the Education Secretary confirmed that there are no plans as yet to reopen schools in the near future during the current lockdown restriction. School continues to be committed to supporting parents and pupils through regular telephone and email contact and by providing a range of online resources, support and guidance for parents in continuing a structure of activities that can be accessed from home. I wanted to update you as to how this will be developed over the next few weeks.

- Teachers will continue to make regular contact with families and feed back the information to the Senior Leadership Team. This is to support pupil and their family's wellbeing.
- Online material will be added to the Google Classroom platform which will be linked to your child's curriculum topics for the summer term and will include activities that are designed to develop progress towards your child PLP targets. If you haven't already logged onto Goggle Classroom, can I recommend you do so to access the supportive material. You can download the free app from the app store onto your phone, which enables you to access virtual class meetings and upload photos of your child's activities, which we can they acknowledge and celebrate.
- For some pupils it may be more appropriate for packs of materials and resources to be distributed to you directly. We will look into the logistics of providing this support.

The government message is still that where pupils are able to remain at home then they should, as this is the safest guidance for both pupils, families and staff, during the current levels of risk.

School is only able to provide a limited amount of half day placement to a very small amount of pupils in school where front line NHS workers are required to be at work, where families are at risk of going into crisis and have no support from a Social worker or other agencies, or where pupils are at a genuine safeguarding risk. This is reviewed on a regular basis. We are currently operating a rota of skeleton staff to meet this need while taking into account the management of social distancing rules for pupils, limited Personal Protective Equipment for staff and by following guidance for restricting the contact chain in the event of a pupil or adult being diagnosed with the virus. Our capacity to meet this need and maintain staffing levels is a challenge due to 40% of our staff being unavailable to work in school because of their own personal and family circumstances.

Can I thank parents for their continued support at this difficult time where there is not yet clear Government guidance as to what the near future holds, but can I also reassure you that these measures are temporary and at some point in the future, normality will resume.

Yours sincerely

Paul Leaper - Headteacher

Stay at home – Protect the NHS- Save Lives

