

Dear Parent / Carer

COVID 19 – SEND / EHC PLAN UPDATE

I hope this letter finds you and your families well in what continues to be a challenging time for all. Due to our continued closure, I am writing to you to provide you with a number of updates:

Interventions

- Prior to the Easter break, students who participate in our Social Skills groups were provided with activities to enable them to continue this work at home. If you require any additional materials, please contact our Deputy SENCo, Hannah Deans at SEN@thedeacademy.org
- Year 7 students who are enrolled on our IDL Literacy and IDL Numeracy intervention programmes continue to have home access. We've been adding positive points to Class Charts for all students who have been engaging in their literacy and numeracy development – we're really proud of their commitment and look forward to celebrating their progress with a party when we return.
- We are expanding the IDL Literacy and Numeracy programmes to Year 8 and Year 9 students where we feel it will be a suitable replacement for in-school provision. A member of the Learning Support team will be in contact with you in the next few days should this be relevant to your son / daughter.
- For those students learning to touch-type, a reminder that you can access online resources to support this at:

<https://www.typinggames.zone>

<https://www.kidztype.com>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/z3c6tfr>

Curriculum access

Where necessary, teaching staff have been adapting materials for your son / daughter either via Class Charts or through home learning packs. If you have any questions or concerns about their learning, please contact the subject teacher in the first instance - all contact details are available on the school website.

Teaching staff and tutors are using 'announcements' on Class Charts to keep in touch. Please check these regularly as there are often messages for parents/carers as well as our students.

If you feel your son / daughter's needs are changing rapidly at home and you require additional support or guidance, or you are unable to contact the relevant subject teacher, please email us at SEN@thedeacademy.org and we will endeavour to support you.

The BBC are continuing to provide Daily Lessons via Bitesize. These lessons cover a range of subjects including reading, maths challenges, Music, Science and History. You can find them here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

Access to external support services

Gloucestershire County Council

You can find a range of support materials including services for mental health support, family wellbeing and parenting through coronavirus guidance here: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/covid-19-information-and-advice/support-for-children-and-families-during-covid-19/>

Advisory Teaching Service:

While the ATS is closed, they have set up a number of advice lines that are open between 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm.

Cognition and Learning / Social, Emotional and Mental Health

Day of week	C&L	SEMH
Monday	01452 427579	01452 426813
Tuesday	01452 324365	01452 324364
Wednesday	01452 426833	01452 425794
Thursday	01452 324371	01452 425425
Friday	01452 583550	01452 426813

Communication and Interaction:

Day of week	10.00-12.00	13.00-15.00
Monday	01452 324373	01452 324369
Tuesday	01452 427579	01452 425794
Wednesday	01452 425712	01452 324375
Thursday	01452 324367	01452 583810
Friday	01452 583731	01452 324374

They have also set up a YouTube channel for additional support and guidance:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYrm2ArgsNRy4kKHf9aPsPQ>

EHC PLAN ONLY: Changes to the legal duties for schools and health care providers

On Thursday 30 April, the Secretary of State for Education provided an amendment to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 and a modification to Section 42 of the Children and Families Act (England) 2014.

These changes only effect students with an EHC Plan and they:

- relax the timescales for Annual Reviews where it is not reasonably practicable for them to go ahead
- discharge the duty of the educational setting or healthcare service to deliver special educational provision after reasonable endeavours to provide this have taken place. This discharge of duty is proposed to be in effect from 1st May 2020 to 31st May 2020.

If your son / daughter has an upcoming Annual Review in May or June, please be assured that these will take place as scheduled. We are able to host virtual meetings where you can participate via video link or host an audio conference where you are able to participate by phone. The Advisory Teaching Service

and Social Services are also able to participate using these methods. If you haven't already received a phone call from Mrs. McCoy to confirm the time and date of the Annual Review, you will do so in the next few days.

If your son / daughter has already had their Annual Review and there has been no significant change in need, we are pausing all My Plan reviews that run alongside their EHC Plan until we know more about when and how students will return to school as it is likely these targets will need to change to better reflect academic progress and wellbeing following the school closure.

If you have questions about the delivery of provisions contained within your son/daughter's EHC Plan, either from an educational or health perspective, please discuss this with their Lead Teaching Assistant during your weekly check-in call or contact us at SEN@thedeanacademy.org

EHC Plan: Provision of a school place

Finally, should your son / daughter's needs change and you feel they require a place in school, please contact info@thedeanacademy.org and a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be in contact within 24 hours.

Kind regards,

Joanne Rosbrook
Associate Assistant Headteacher / SENCo