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Richard Brand: Headteacher

1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

## COVID 19 – SEND / EHC PLAN UPDATE 2

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. Due to our continued partial closure I am writing to provide you with a further update with regards to SEND provision and support.

### Year 10

As we look ahead to welcoming your son/daughter back into our school community, we're conscious of the fact that things will look and feel different to the school they left in March.

Please check the school website regularly for updates to the proposed plan for some face to face contact for your child and additional support resources such as images of the school site so they can be confident that the school is doing everything we can to keep them safe.

In addition to this, you will also find advice from Debbie Riall, the Athelstan Trust's specialist teacher for autism and related needs and Social Stories from Gloucestershire County Council which may help you in supporting their return.

For returning students on an EHC Plan, we will be allocating a Teaching Assistant to their 'bubble' so there is dedicated, socially distanced, in-class support available. If your child is placed in the EPIC Centre and you've indicated you'd like them to return to school, Miss Deans will work with you and your son / daughter to ensure the proposed plan is manageable for them.

If you have any questions or concerns about their return, please do contact the Senior Leadership Team at [info@thedeanacademy.org](mailto:info@thedeanacademy.org) and one of us will reply within 24 hours.

### School – Home Contact

Our Teaching Assistants will continue to be in regular contact with you if your child has an EHC Plan, My Plan Plus or My Plan (Graduated Pathway). If you'd like to increase or decrease this contact, please discuss this with your Lead Teaching Assistant when they next contact you.

If your child is on the SEND register you can contact the Department directly at [SEN@thedeanacademy.org](mailto:SEN@thedeanacademy.org) if you have any concerns or queries with regards to the on-going Home Learning.



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### **Curriculum access and interventions**

We really appreciate those of you who have fed back what is working and what needs adapting for your child. We have been passing this on to relevant subject departments who will continue to adjust learning provision via Class Charts or printed home learning packs.

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@thedeanaacademy.org](mailto:SEN@thedeanaacademy.org) and we will endeavour to support you.

It's been really pleasing to see so many students logging on to practice their core literacy and numeracy skills via the IDL Home Learning Programme. We are checking their progress regularly and awarding positives via Class Charts. IDL will continue to replace most Read Write Inc interventions for the coming term.

Social Skills will continue in Term 6 and our Communication and Interaction team will be providing you with additional activities over the next few weeks and for those students learning to touch-type, online resources are available at:

<https://www.typinggames.zone>

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

### **Access to external services**

The Advisory Teaching Service continue to support schools and parents via remote working. If your child is already known to the ATS, please contact them directly via email otherwise their advice lines are as follows:

*Communication and Interaction:*



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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

*Cognition and Learning / Social, Emotional and Mental Health (operating the same hours as above):*

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

### **EHC Plan only: Changes to the legal duties for schools and healthcare providers**

In my May update, I outlined an amendment by the Secretary of State to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 and a modification to Section 43 of the Children and Families Act (England) 2014. These modifications:

- relaxed the timescales for Annual Reviews where it is not reasonably practicable for them to go ahead





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- discharged 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 has now been extended to 30<sup>th</sup> June.

As advised last month, we have continued to hold Annual Reviews via audio or video conferencing therefore should your child have a Review scheduled for June or July 2020, please be assured this will take place. If you haven't already received a phone call from Mrs McCoy to confirm the process, you will do so in the next few days.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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

