

The Learning Hub

SEND and EPIC re-opening information



General information

Both The Learning Hub (formally Learning Support / H Block) and the EPIC Centre will operate as mixed year group provisions as they did prior to the partial closure in March 2020. In order to ensure the on-going safety of both staff and students, the mixed year group provision has been taken into account by our Deputy Headteacher, Mr Mooney, when completing the whole school risk assessment.

Based on the risk assessment we have taken the following steps:

- Hand sanitizer available on entry into The Learning Hub
- Hand sanitizer available by The Learning Hub staff office
- All circular tables / circular table formations have been changed into rows (H3/H4)
- A 'break out' space in our lobby has been created in case we experience a busy period in The Hub. This consists of 3 tables in a row with students spaced approximately 1 metre apart
- All Social Skills groups will continue however students will sit in a larger circle formation to ensure allow for social distancing
- Anti-bacterial cleaning materials provided in H3, H4 and EPIC
- 'Hands, Face, Space' guidance in both word and visual form
- We have created three 'zones' in the EPIC Centre and removed some furniture to provide more spacing between students and students and the Centre's staff. The zones are as follows:
 - Learning zone with tables in rows
 - Computer zone
 - Cloakroom and changing space

It is important to note that we have worked to ensure that the space does not look drastically different and where necessary, students will be supported to acclimatise by Miss Thayer, Mrs Lavender or Mrs Turley.

You can review the photographs on the school's Twitter account (@thedeanacademy) from Wednesday 26 August.

What is staying the same?

- All EHCP students including those with an EPIC placement, will be allocated a Lead Learning Coach (formally known as Teaching Assistants). The Lead Learning Coach for your child will be in contact on Tuesday 1 September to introduce themselves and answer any final questions you might have about re-opening on Wednesday 2 / Thursday 3 September.

- Where it is a requirement of a student's EHC Plan, Learning Coaches have been allocated to lessons for coaching and support as normal (please see 'other points to note' for additional information on this).
- Students who require mobility / sensory / hearing aid support will access this as normal.
- Teaching staff and Learning Coaches will continue to provide bespoke curriculum adaptations or direct instruction for students who require individualised support to access different tasks or lessons.
- My Plan and My Plan Plus' will re-commence in Term 1 – a member of The Learning Hub will be in contact in September to arrange for an initial meeting to take place.
- Social Skills groups for Years 7 to 9 will re-start in mid-September and continue to take place in EPIC. These will remain as year group specific sessions taught by Mrs Lavender and Mrs Turley.
- Read, Write Inc (Phonics and Fresh Start) for Years 7 to 9 will restart and continue to be taught in H4. These will remain as year group specific sessions and continue to be taught by Mrs Bates or Mrs Buckley.
- The Key Stage 4 Alternative Curriculum (ASDAN and Boost) will re-start on September 2nd and continue to take place in H3 with Mrs McCormick. They remain as year group specific lessons.
- Bespoke one-to-one or small group intervention based on EHCP or My Plan Plus outcomes will re-start in September. We aim for these to be facilitated within the year group bubble zone if there is capacity within the building to do so. If not, students will attend their session in The Learning Hub.
- For EPIC students who get changed in the Centre for PE, this will continue to be available to them. We are asking them, from September 2nd, to get changed in the Sensory Room to ensure their privacy.
- For EPIC and high needs students who access The Learning Hub in order to find a quiet space to calm down, collect their thoughts, talk to their Trusted Adult etc – this will continue to be available for them. We will allocate them a new 'Time in The Nook' card in September which they can use as and when necessary.
- The EPIC Tutor Group will re-start on September 3rd. The Tutor Group will be led by Mrs Lavender and our new Deputy SENCO in charge of EPIC, Miss Thayer.

What is changing?

The biggest change we need to make is how The Learning Hub/EPIC is accessed during unstructured times (break / lunch). As you are no doubt aware, break and lunch times are staggered from September which means it is highly likely that when your child has a break time, there will be other students in The Learning Hub trying to learn or accessing the quiet space. We have to ensure that learning and interventions are as disruption-free as possible therefore at break and lunchtimes students will be able to enter The Hub and exit via one of our other external doors to have their break in our Garden. We will show them the door to use when they return to school. The Garden is only accessible via The Hub and has:

- An undercover space and bench for students to be able to eat, socialise and play games as normal

- Open space for students to play ball games or socialise
- Students accessing The Learning Hub and EPIC will be supported to develop their understanding of social responsibility. One of the steps we will be asking them to take is to clean their space / computer once they have finished their session. If they are unable to do this, a member of staff will do it on their behalf.
- Handwriting and / or Spelling Support (either one-to-one or small group) will re-start in mid-September and will take place in the student's year group bubble zone
- We have removed IDL Literacy and IDL Numeracy intervention from our academic programme to ensure students are not moving around too many school buildings. We are replacing these programmes with the following:

Literacy

- In English, we have created 'Boost' groups in Years 7 and 8. Students who do not meet the criteria for Read, Write Inc but still require significant literacy intervention will be placed in this group for their English lessons. 30 minutes of the lesson will be literacy intervention either via small group work or via the secondary Lexia programme and 30 minutes of the lesson will be English. The group is taught by a specialist English teacher and staffed by our Lead Learning Coach for Literacy, Mrs Karen Bates. Boost takes place in their year group bubble zone at the same time as their normal English lesson.
- For students in Years 9 and above who require literacy intervention, Mrs Bates will be in contact at the start of October after our Reading and Spelling Tests have been completed to discuss when their Lexia intervention will take place. Please be aware that it may be the case that we will need to run this after-school to ensure safe access to a computing suite.

Numeracy

- In Maths, we have also created 'Boost' groups in Years 7 and 8. Students who require significant adaptations to the Maths curriculum or require support to consolidate key foundational principles will be placed in this group for their Maths lessons. The group is taught by a specialist Maths teacher and staffed by our Lead Learning Coach for Numeracy, Mrs Toni Creed. Boost takes place in their year group bubble zone at the same time as their normal Maths lesson.
- Power of 2 numeracy interventions will continue on a one-to-one basis however they will now take place in the student's year group bubble zone. For Years 7 and 8, Power of 2 will take place in their Maths lesson. Mrs Creed, our Lead Learning Coach for Numeracy, will take the student out for 15 minutes to complete part of the programme before they return back to their Maths lesson.

Other points to note

- Learning Coaches will operate as close to normal as possible to ensure students are supported in their relevant lessons. Your child may find that the Learning Coach utilises a mini-whiteboard to provide reactive coaching / support should they get into difficulty with a particular task.
- Teaching staff and / or the Learning Coach will, where necessary, provide direct instruction or additional guided practice to ensure the academic progress of your child. This may mean that in order for this to take place, the member of staff has to take your child out of the classroom into another available space within the year group bubble zone to deliver the support. This will be on a task by task basis e.g. once the task is complete, they will return to their lesson to move on with the rest of their class.
- Please be aware that some Learning Coaches may make the personal choice to wear a clear plastic visor for one-to-one work should it be necessary for them to sit next to your child.
- Where it becomes apparent that an EHC or high-needs student is unable to fully access their mainstream schooling, we will work with you and your child to adapt their curriculum and pastoral provision. If you have any concerns, please contact us directly as SEN@thedeanacademy.org
- Where a student with Communication and Interaction Needs finds the change from home schooling difficult, our new Deputy SENCO, Miss Hannah Thayer, or one of the EPIC Team will be in contact to ensure we work together to put in place the right kind of academic and pastoral support.
- We may utilise the specialist and mainstream curriculums from The Oak National Academy (<https://www.thenational.academy>) to supplement the school's curriculum if a student requires time in The Hub to re-acclimatise to full-time in-school learning.