



Head Teacher – Mr M Loveridge

Dear parent / carer,

I hope that this letter finds you well and you are keeping safe and healthy. It is difficult to believe that we have already reached the end of another term. The continuation of the Covid-19 epidemic and the new ways we are having to go about our everyday lives are an ongoing challenge for us all. I do hope that you have not been overloaded with all of the information that has been coming out via the government and the press. I am now in a position where we have had guidance that is specifically related to special schools.

Guidance from the DFE has requested that '*special schools work towards a phased return of more children and young people without a focus on specific year groups*'.

The school has been in very close discussions with the Local Authority and other special schools to formulate our response; we have carefully and sensitively assessed our current situation and plan to gradually increase the number of students onsite, when it is safe to do so and only if we have staff available to support the provision. Priority will continue to be given to children of key workers as well as by invitation from senior staff. If you are a key worker and the latest guidelines mean that you are now in a position where you need onsite provision for your child then please do contact us via the usual channels. We will do our best to accommodate your request.

I am keen to provide some sort of transition for our leaving Year 11s and our joining Year 7s. More information will be coming out about this in a few weeks. Unfortunately Year 11 prize giving will not be possible in June but we are very keen to celebrate student's successes (probably in the autumn term).

No new work will be provided for Half Term but if your child is keen to do some then please access the work that is already available on the website. Phone calls and emails will only continue for some students over the Half Term period but if you need to make contact with key staff then relevant email addresses are on the front page of the school website. In an emergency please call Ms Chard on 07590261717. Wiltshire council have also set up a Well-Being hub for anybody that may need support. The contact details are [wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk) or 0300 003 4576.

The MIND charity, which supports mental health, also has some great material to help support the well-being of children and young people. It can be accessed via the link below

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

There is also information on the website to help adults' well-being if that is helpful.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

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I am also conscious of the fact that children and adults alike are using video calling much more than ever before. At the beginning of March none of us even knew what 'Zooming' was and it is now a regular part of everyday language. Use of Zoom and other similar applications is not without risk and children's use of this type of contact needs to be monitored very carefully. Students should always have support when using things like FaceTime or Zoom, as it helps to keep them safe. We want to get our students into good habits for now and in the future, and we know that the internet and social media can sometimes be used by people who are not to be trusted. To help keep students safe, please do always sit with them whilst they are on any live chat either on Zoom, FaceTime or Skype etc. Always have zoom going on in a room where there are other people and certainly never in student's bedrooms.

The link below explains some of the features of zoom and how to use these carefully.

<https://www.familyzone.com/anz/families/blog/zoom-how-safe-is-it-for-kids>

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions or require clarification please do not hesitate to get in touch via the usual channels.

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