



HEADTEACHER:

Ms K. Littleddyke | BA (Hons), MA, NPQH
21 July 2020

Dear Parent,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well. The impact of the Covid-19 restrictions on our school community and indeed wider community have been significant and we know that this has been a difficult time for SEND students in particular. The government have been clear that there is an expectation for all students in all year groups to return to school in September and I am very aware that this will pose some significant challenges for many. The school leadership team have been working hard to put a plan in place and as SENDCo I wanted to make contact to reassure you that we will still be working hard as a SEND team to meet SEND needs in September.

Mrs Littleddyke has communicated details of the changes in a letter sent out previously but there are a few points I would like to pick up on to offer support and reassurance at this uncertain time.

Bubbles

As a Trust we have taken the decision that all Key Stage 3 students (Years 7 – 9) will be in Tutor Group 'bubbles', whilst KS4 and 5 students will be in Year Group 'bubbles'.

For key stage 3 students this will offer lots of consistency which could suit our SEND students well. We will be ensuring that those students who need movement breaks due to their emerging needs are supported with this in a safe manner.

For Keys stage 4 students there will be as much consistency within groupings as possible and staff will be on hand to support students with any changes which occur.

The STAR centre

Key stage 3 support within the STAR centre will continue in a socially distanced manner, ensuring there is a designated space for each year group to get support outside of the classroom if needed. Key stage 4 support from the STAR centre will also continue but will be in another, year group exclusive space. This will help us meet the needs of the SEND students in an age-appropriate and supportive way, whilst maintaining the whole school bubble structure.

Learning support assistants

Learning Support Assistants

LSAs will continue to work with students in lessons and there will be designated staff for each year group. Our LSA team have all undergone training during the lockdown period to increase their knowledge of a range of needs, including those related to Covid-anxiety. All of our team are looking forward to seeing and supporting our SEND students in September, although students may have to get used to them wearing a PPE visor.



Emotional/Social support

One of the key pieces of support put in place for September will be around emotional and social support. We know that for some students the lockdown has brought some anxieties and, although many have enjoyed the time spent at home, the lack of formal routine has been hard for them. As a SEND team we will be working closely with the Heads of Year to make sure that those students who need support are met with curiosity, patience and understanding.

Parental meetings

As a team we are keen to continue to have good contact with parents, even if meeting in person isn't possible. With this in mind our review meetings will include an option for an online video meeting on Microsoft Teams to ensure we can still discuss your child's progress and emerging needs. More details of this will follow in the autumn term.

Teaching and learning profiles

Information relating to the SEND needs of all our students have been reviewed and updated throughout the year. This information will be ready for teachers on student teaching and learning profiles to help their teachers support the students throughout the term.

Support materials

We have commissioned a couple of different videos and resources to support students in lockdown and also with transition back to school. These are available at the links below. There is also a social story available for all students who may find this helpful for processing changes around returning to school. In addition to this, a letter with full details for individual year groups will be sent out at the end of term, as well as an additional letter being posted at the end of August. A video tour preparing students for any changes across the site which may have occurred will be available here

<http://saltash.net/>

Early Help

Throughout the summer the Early Help Hub is available to help signpost families to appropriate services for advice and support. There are also local and national support services available.

Early help Hub 01872 322277 earlyhelphub@cornwall.gov.uk

The Core youth project 01752 843176 hello@thecoresaltash.co.uk

HEADSTART KERNOW <https://www.headstartkernow.org.uk/>

Childline <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

KOOTH Counselling <https://www.kooth.com/>

Online parent information <https://parentinfo.org/>

We are looking forward to working with you next year to welcome our SEND students back to school, help them transition back to life in school and move forward with their individual educational journeys.

Best wishes from all of us on the SEND team for a safe summer,



Jen Childs
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator