North East Derbyshire Support Centre

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are safe and well under the new lockdown arrangements that came into force this week. I have included a letter from our Multi-Academy Trust which explains how all schools in the Trust are approaching education during the lockdown. In addition, I write to you with further details of the current education offer for North East Derbyshire Support Centre pupils, and to set out the school’s plans regarding pupil learning during the next half term.

**Who is school open to?**

Full-time education will be provided in school to all pupils on our roll who have a social worker, have an EHCP, or have otherwise been defined as vulnerable under the guidance issued to schools by the department for education. Additionally, full-time education is available for pupils whose parents are critical workers (formerly referred to as key workers). Families with pupils identified in the categories above should have already been contacted by one of our staff team. However, if you have not yet been contacted and feel that your child should be in school based upon the information above, please phone the school to discuss. All work for those attending full-time will be set and completed in school.

Whilst we do not consider all pupils who have been permanently excluded or who are at risk of permanent exclusion as vulnerable young people, we have a duty of care to ensure they are safe and well, and have access to appropriate education. Therefore, all secondary age pupils (years 7-11) not attending full-time will be offered a session in school (often referred to as a ‘face-to-face’ session), on a given day of the week. These sessions are set out in more detail in the Education Offer sections below.

**Education Offer – Primary age Nurture pupils**

Primary age pupils will likely be provided with information from their mainstream school about the expectations for home learning during the lockdown. In addition, we will be offering virtual nurture sessions throughout the week. Nurture staff will contact the parents of primary age children directly to set up these sessions.

**Blended Education Offer – Secondary age pupils**

For the period of lockdown, we will be offering a programme of ‘blended’ learning for those secondary age pupils who are not in school on a full-time basis. Blended learning is a mixture of face-to-face sessions in school and remote learning that can be completed in the home. All pupils will be able to attend school for one session (either morning or afternoon) per week and will be provided with a package of work for the remainder of the week. School staff will contact families to discuss the sessions available to your child.

We realise that pupils may find it difficult to work at home, especially when they are used to the close support of our staff. The weekly face-to-face sessions will provide our pupils with the opportunity to see their teachers, return completed work for feedback, and to get the support they may need to complete the tasks set for home learning.

Please contact the school to make arrangements for attendance from next week, including to discuss issues relating to transport, if you have not yet had the opportunity to do so. Whilst it is for you to make decisions regarding what is best for your child, we encourage all parents to take up the opportunity to access these sessions.

The first learning packs are being sent out today. The Key Stage 4 packs (for years 10 and 11) provide work for the next week, the KS3 pack (for years 7-9) provide work for the next two weeks. We do appreciate that our pupils work at different rates and have included levels of tasks within the packs. Pupils should be encouraged to complete as much as they can, with the aim of completing the pack in the timescales above if possible.

It is our intention to ensure that nobody is disadvantaged, which is why we are providing the work in physical packs in the first instance. In the coming weeks I will be writing to you again to introduce an online platform to distribute the learning called Show My Homework. Please rest assured that, where access to a computer or laptop is limited, physical work packs will still be made available.

It is our expectation that all pupils engage with the home learning. Where pupils do not, they may be deemed vulnerable as they are missing out on education, and may be required to attend school on a full-time basis to catch up any missed work.

Finally, if at any time you have any concerns or questions relating to home learning, please contact the school immediately. Likewise if you have any general concerns regarding education or there are issues relating to your child that you wish to discuss with us, get in touch.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Matt Morris

Headteacher