



Hilltop School

An academy within Nexus MAT

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Headteacher: Mr David Burdett



Friday 22th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Wider opening of school - update

As requested by the Government, we are planning to open to more students after half term and we are confident we have enough staff to manage all the students where families want them to return.

If your child is returning to school, we would ask you to continue to follow Government guidelines on social distancing to reduce the possibility of any pupil bringing Covid-19 into school.

If anyone in your family becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of - or change in - their normal sense of taste or smell, please do not send your child to school. We would advise you to get the whole family unit tested. If you are unable to do so you will need to isolate for 14 days and it will be at least 7 days after anyone shows symptoms before your child can return to school. Please follow government guidance and keep school informed.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

We have a range of risk assessments in place which are informing our plans to minimise risk to staff and students. Given the nature of our pupils we cannot guarantee social distancing measures can be adhered to at all times. The Government recognise this is a genuine issue for most special schools and are therefore asking we do all we can to keep children in their own class groups with their own class teams, in what we're terming "class bubbles". At break and dinner times we will ensure students and staff do not mix. We will reduce the movement around school and ensure we only have essential visitors and we will continue with enhanced cleaning of the school site, with heightened hygiene measures in place for all staff and pupils.

We will continue to routinely use standard Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when undertaking intimate care, following Government advice that face masks and goggles/face shields aren't necessary, unless in very specific circumstances. As we

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have throughout this pandemic, we will continue to put our trust in the advice of the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Science Officer – as has continual informed Government policy.

We may need to reduce our offer at various points if we have a high volume of sickness absence or staff self-isolating, though we will endeavour to communicate this as soon as possible to reduce the impact on families.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Burdett".

David Burdett
Headteacher