

7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support and patience over the last few days. I would have hoped for a different start to year, but I know – as a school community – we will support each other through these challenging times.

I am pleased to say we have been able to establish a Lateral Flow Testing area on site. This is an important step in helping us manage risk within the school community. Thank you to the staff who worked tirelessly yesterday to establish the testing systems. As a result, we were able to test every student-facing member of staff. I am glad to report that all members of staff tested negative.

Since Tuesday, we have been offering remote learning to all students – largely via Microsoft Teams. Based on feedback from parents we are modifying our timetable of remote learning to include more live ‘Zoom face-to-face’ sessions with teaching staff. This will be alongside the lessons provided over Teams. The learning available to students working from home will be identical to the learning facilitated with students on-site. Further details about the on-site provision will be communicated to those who have requested a place.

You will be provided with your child’s updated remote learning timetable once we have established all the necessary underlying systems and processes. This will include four hours of lessons Monday – Thursday and two hours of EHCP work on Friday. During lunch time, students will also be offered an hour of staff-managed peer social interaction time over Zoom. This is an exciting development in our remote learning provision and I’m looking forward to receiving feedback on these additions.

This earlier finish on Friday will allow time to ensure all staff take their Lateral Flow test, the site is deep cleaned, and a health and safety audit can be conducted. At this point, any adjustments to the following week’s timetable will be communicated. School will be physically closed on Friday afternoon and there will be no staff on-site. If you have a safeguarding concern at this time, please e-mail [safeguardingteam@lighthouseschool.co.uk](mailto:safeguardingteam@lighthouseschool.co.uk) and these e-mails will be prioritised.

The students on-site will be accessing the same learning as those off-site. Staff on-site will facilitate the ‘remote learning’ rather than deliver lessons. Students on-site will be staying within their bubbles, however, we have had to merge groups to enable correct support ratios. As a result, students will not be working in their usual group or with their usual peers, but social interaction will be facilitated with peers via Zoom over lunchtime – including with those off-site.

We will be re-establishing our support systems for students and their families. This includes regular check-ins, tailored resources, mentoring, training, and possible social events (watch this space!)



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If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school - in the first instance your Key Worker. Resilience is one of our School Values and I'm sure we will need it over the next few weeks. I'm proud of what we achieved together during 2020 and I believe we're in a good position to continue to provide educational and wellbeing support for the whole school community.

Stay safe,

Emma  
Principal



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