

Harpurhey Alternative Provision School

979-981 Rochdale Road, Manchester M9 8AE

Telephone: 0161 674 1831

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

These are, indeed, difficult times and everyone at HAPS hope that you are all well and coping with the immediate challenges and those that lie ahead.

I wanted to update you on our situation and our plans moving forward.

Staffing and examinations.

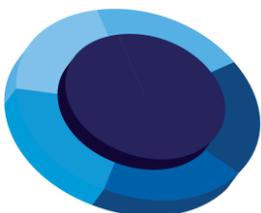
We still have staff who are unavailable for work in the coming week. Until these periods of self-isolation come to an end, we do not have a Designated Safeguarding Lead available in school until Monday 30th March and cannot, therefore, provide a service with all the safeguarding needs of our young people met. We will, therefore, unless government advice suggests differently, **remain closed next week**. We will open, for a period of time, on **Friday 27th March** to meet with Year 11 pupils to brief them about the situation with examinations. The school will be open from 10.00 am to 11.30 am should any year 11 pupils wish to call in to seek advice. This is not compulsory, but we would not want any of our pupils to become distressed about the situation, there will be advice we can offer. **This offer extends to year 11 pupils only and they should only attend if they remain symptom free.**

Moving forward.

We recognise our responsibilities in providing for those young people that fall into the categories of EHCP, vulnerabilities and key worker roles and suggest the following arrangements, which will come into operation on **Monday 30th March**;

HAPS will be open and provide educational opportunities for those pupils that meet the government's guidelines on provision for our most vulnerable pupils. In some cases, these conditions apply to those parents/carers who may be employed in some of the essential services such as defence, civil defence and health. If you are employed in such areas, we are obliged, and happy, to offer a service. If you feel able to share with us your employment status, this will be stored securely and destroyed once we move out of these difficult times. We can advise on whether your child qualifies for such support if you contact us.

We propose to operate a 4-day week, running from 9.00 am until 1.30 pm, including lunch and breaks, with effect from **Monday 30th March** for these pupils through to Thursday. We will provide maths, English, Science and some AP type activities including cooking, Boxing, woodwork and other activities. Given that some of the activities may become 'messy,' we would not require pupils to wear the school uniform but



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would advise that everyday clothing can be worn that the pupils don't mind getting 'dirty.' Designer clothing just wouldn't be sensible.

On Fridays, we will use the time to continue preparing work-packs for those pupils that do not have access to the internet at home, with arrangements in place to deliver these to the homes and/or collect any completed work for correction. For some pupils, who may just want to make contact with us because they are anxious, this can be managed at the school but we would stress that anyone showing any sign of the symptoms **should NOT attend**. It would be preferable for pupils to contact the school if they were choosing to attend, they will be given a time slot so that we can limit the number of pupils attending at any one time. We are working hard on making a 'lost learning' package available on the school's website, www.haps.manchester.sch.uk. We will send out help as to how to access this in the next few days. We would also point you in the direction of our Twitter feed @hapseducation, which will be a useful way for us to keep you informed if you access it. Please don't worry if you don't have such access, we will still use text messages and the postal service to keep you up to date.

Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to free school meals, your home school will provide details for you.

From 23 March, the Council has also set up a scheme to help with food costs for families who are facing additional financial challenges due to the Covid 19 virus.

To qualify your family must be Manchester residents or supported by the Homelessness Service. The criteria are;

- Children and young people who meet the criteria for free school meals (where the school have not got other arrangements in place);
- Children and young people who are classed as an asylum seeker; and
- Children and young people whose family has been hardest hit by the recent issues and may be waiting for benefits to be assessed or have a gap in their income due to being laid off etc.

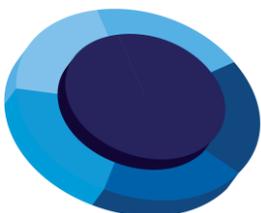
The contribution towards a lunchtime meal is £1.75 per day (£8.75 per week) for each child or young person in the household.

The Council will be able to pay this money within a few days by the following methods

- A bank transfer into a nominated bank account
- A secure text message that can be used to access cash from a range of Paypoint outlets in the city
- A voucher that can be printed and can then be exchanged for cash from a range of Paypoint outlets in the city.

To make an application please submit a request via the Council's Welfare Provision Scheme

[https://lwa.financialassessments.co.uk/OnlineApplication/\(S\(1w2yi5bjmzswqq0vvciplvtv\)\)/Introduction.aspx?form=LWAFULL&time=637202318515007959.1584635052308](https://lwa.financialassessments.co.uk/OnlineApplication/(S(1w2yi5bjmzswqq0vvciplvtv))/Introduction.aspx?form=LWAFULL&time=637202318515007959.1584635052308)



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Not all our families have access to the internet. If this applies to you, please raise the matter next time we contact you and we will provide whatever support we can so that you can claim this support.

Communication.

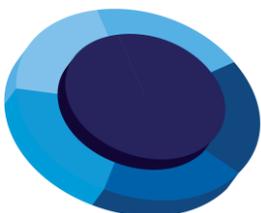
We started this week, a regular contact with home through texts and calls. We will maintain this with you, it will help to keep you informed as some government decisions will be made at school level and not through television and radio as currently. You should expect some form of contact on Monday to check receipt of this letter and to give you an opportunity to ask any questions.

Whilst we are, for the most part closed, please be assured of our continuing commitment to work with you and provide access to whatever support we can. Everyone at HAPS hope that you all stay safe and well and continue to wash those hands!

Best wishes,

James Bradley

Headteacher



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