

20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Coronavirus COVID-19

After following the developing Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic in recent weeks and months, it is clear now how fast the virus is spreading. The Government is updating facts and figures daily.

As you are aware the Government announced on Wednesday that all schools will be closing with effect from the end of the day today. They have recommended where possible schools should offer a skeleton service to ensure certain pupils can continue to attend. One group included in this are pupils with EHCP's who are known to social care. For special schools this has presented as a real challenge as this is our full cohort and I am sure you can all appreciate it would not be safe or sensible for us to open for business as usual.

The Government has advised special schools 'to make case by case basis assessments of the health and safeguarding considerations of pupils and students on an education, health and care (EHC) plan'. The DfE has advised that special schools need to individually risk assess and should only open to support our most vulnerable pupils if it is safe to do so.

We have therefore had to make the difficult decision to remain closed until further notice. We will be reviewing this on an ongoing basis. We will be working closely with the Local Authority and health professionals and following government guidance in order to reopen the school at the earliest possible opportunity, but while ensuring we protect the health, safety and wellbeing of our school community. The nature and vulnerability of our students indicates that this is the safest course of action to allow you to socially distance your children and young people as much as possible from now.

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We are committed to carrying on supporting our students and families as much as possible whilst complying with social distancing recommendations and other containment measures. We are setting up systems to ensure you get regular updates from your child's class team as well as Julie, Teneille and myself.

Teachers will send home suggested activities and we encourage you to share any work being done at home with us through Evidence for Learning. We will also email out their end of term reports.

If you have any questions, please email us at:
office@limeacademyravensbourne.london

You can also contact Julie Cook, our Family Support Worker on:
julie.cook@hornbeamacademytrust.com.

We will send updates via parentmail and publish them on the website.

This decision has been made with a heavy heart but please be assured that our school community's health is at the heart of all decisions made.

I wish you all well in these very difficult and unprecedented times.

Kindest regards.

Victoria Fackler
Headteacher