

**Thursday 31st December 2020**

Dear Parents and Care Givers,

We did not expect to be corresponding so quickly since our last letter, but due to the new Government guidance, it is necessary to clarify specific points upon our return next week.

As an Alternative Provision, providing education to vulnerable learners, **Hopefields will remain open** for young people to attend from the beginning of the spring term on Tuesday, 5th January.

**As all of our learners remain on roll with their host school/college, it is imperative parents and care givers make contact with their respective schools to check the school’s particular guidance before sending their child into Hopefields on Tuesday morning.**

As explained in previous correspondence, Hopefields will not offer testing on site.

A number of our young people have medical needs and are therefore considered vulnerable. We will make contact with those families within the next 24 hours, ensuring access to all remote learning packages and daily zoom calls can be scheduled, with a return to on site education from Monday, 18th January, in line with the (current) guidelines, although this may be subject to further clarification.

There will be a number of changes to the Hopefields day and therefore the curriculum in the coming weeks. Outdoor learning will be increased (please ensure all warm clothing is available in centre daily) and all staff will wear safety visors when teaching. Teaching staff are further reduced, with no sessional staff in centre at any time. Please be assured the quality of education and staff to student ratio will not be compromised. Cleaning staff will be on hand during the day to sterilise all equipment and surfaces regularly, as was the system during the autumn term.

Hopefields strive to deliver the best quality education for our young people, and like our host schools, colleges and partners, have remained open and educating in many different forms since the start of the pandemic last March. May we take this opportunity to show gratitude and give thanks to those in our partner schools who have worked tirelessly throughout the academic year (and indeed the festive season) to enable learning to continue into 2021, at significant risk to themselves and their families.

As such, we would ask you, as parents and carers, to remain vigilant and maintain the Government guidelines within the Tier 4 legislation so the Hopefields team is not put at unnecessary risk. We appreciate your ongoing support during this time.

As always, we can be contacted on the above details should you have any questions or concerns.

Let us hope, once more, for a prosperous and peaceful 2021,

Emily Greenhalgh and Alison Laws

Directors of Hopefields Education, Incorporating The Montana Project