



LOCKDOWN AND REMOTE LEARNING

As we enter the final few weeks of lockdown for schools, we must continue to thank school staff for all their work and to you, the parents, a thank you for all your support.

This third national lockdown, the second involving schools, has been tough on everyone and we cannot wait until life gets back to more like how we used to live and behave. The vaccine is being rolled out at a pace, and whilst understandably there is some anxiety around this, the vaccine is the best chance of returning to a semblance of normality. Anyone worried about the vaccine can speak to professionals and experts in this field via the Vaccine Peer Support and Covid-19 Health Champions. East London NHS has also produced information in a number of Asian, African and European languages that you might find helpful — <https://www.eastlondonhcp.nhs.uk/ourplans/covid-explained-in-your-language.htm>



Remote learning has been a new challenge. Many of you will have found it challenging to support remote learning at home, not many of you trained to be teachers. However, you have been doing a great job in supporting the school. It has been wonderful to read so many positive comments about how you have appreciated the lengths the schools have gone to over the last half term. You understand that many school staff are not only supporting your children to continue their education but are also having to support their own children's education. Everyone has become expert at juggling!! We have to continue for a few more weeks but the schools are considering their 'catch-up' programmes — how to deliver them; the best strategies to use and how we can all work together to try and close any gaps that have grown over the past 12 months.



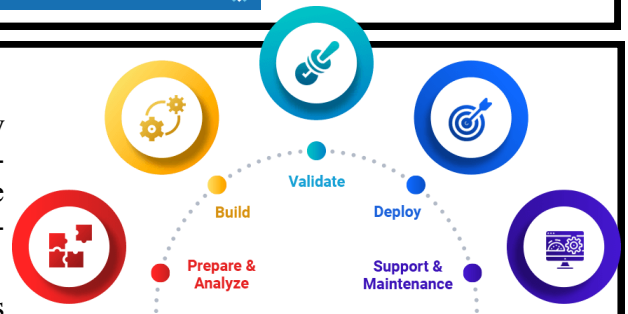
Whilst we work towards the Government's Road Plan out of lockdown, we have to all continue to do our bit to keep the rate of transmission as low as possible and in turn keeping the admissions to hospital as low as possible. The measures of hands—face—space is simple to understand but not so simply to implement. Please do everything in your control to adhere to these simple measures and follow all the Covid rules and restrictions.



SCHOOLS HAVE NOT STOPPED

There may be a national lockdown, and schools are only open to key worker and vulnerable children, but the business of running a school continues. School leaders have continued to go about their usual practices, meeting deadlines and completing all the tasks required of them.

There are a few more details over the page but RSHE has not gone away; budget setting is underway; our plans to grow the Federation have continued; improving safeguarding practice is still very important; staff training has not stopped and preparation for when full school inspections resume has gone on in the background.



It is important to recognise and acknowledge that. Staff continue to deliver on the very high expectations we have always had within our schools. The hours it has taken to record videos over the past 6 weeks and the research of appropriate materials to support learning has been on top of meeting school expectations in new ways and working towards their own targets. It does not surprise me that even though a number of staff have suffered personal loss during this period they have continued to want the best for your children. That commitment and dedication is what makes our Federation great.

FEDERATION GROWTH

You may recall that early back in 2020 we started to support another school in Newham—Calverton Primary School. We released some leaders to spend time working there, helping them with school improvement. Whilst the pandemic meant that we did not support as directly as we would have liked to, there has been an ongoing partnership.

Governors from the Federation and the 3rd school have continued to engage and have continued to talk about growing the Federation. Last half term all schools finally agreed to proceed to the consultation stage. In the coming weeks we will be launching this consultation. By working with Calverton, a school judged 'Good' by Ofsted, the main intention is raise attainment for all pupils in all the schools but Calverton would bring a new dimension as they are a resourced provision school, so we want to learn from their practice working with SEND children.



CPD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

We learnt a lot when we established CPD Schools Federation and this will put us in good stead for growing the Federation sustainably. Our desire has always been to grow to a 5/6 school Federation so we can be more financially secure and grow a central team who will be key to supporting each other.

If we think back to 2017, when we established our Federation, there was some anxiety amongst the community. We trust you feel the joining of the two schools has been nothing other than a positive move, with both schools continuing to improve. There is unlikely to be any huge interest from outside the school communities when we launch consultation but social media can be divisive—marvellous or bad. Should you hear anything, we trust you will help counteract anything negative or provide reassuring words to anyone anxious.

KEEP GOING ...

It was another week when you have not been able to enjoy many of the events and places you may have visited as a family during a normal half-term. By the time you read this, we should have heard when schools are expected to be open. Recently I have found myself agreeing that we should be 'lead by the data not dates' and personally feel this is the right approach. We are all hoping and praying that children can return to full-time, in school education soon as we know this is the best place for them. However, the conditions need to be safe and right for children to return, staff to be exposed to very little risk and society managing the number of Covid cases. Whilst keeping an eye on Monday 8 March as the planned date we must remain cautious and watch the data. Staff desperately want schools to return to as normal as possible, including parents being part of day to day school life. Just keep going and we will get to this position.

Darren Williams, Executive Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Williams'.

RELATIONSHIP, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION (RSHE)



For schools who have not introduced RSHE yet it becomes a statutory programme from April 2021. The past couple of months staff have received training; Governors have reviewed the Newham policy and approach to RSHE (which has been approved by local religious leaders, as well as the DfE and Ofsted) and school leaders have been working with the Newham RSHE Leads.

Central Park have been engaging with parents over a period of time to gather views and begin to discuss age-readiness and the materials being used. This will continue over the next few weeks. At Central Park we expect to see very little change to the programme of RSHE that has been successfully delivered for almost 10 years. At Dersingham the initial engagement back last year is about to continue as we reach out to parents through a consultation booklet and further meetings.

Governors are working towards being able to make a decision on the plans for the Federation ready for rolling out after Easter. We are fortunate that our Governors represent our community and therefore are very mindful of some viewpoints as well as their duty to fulfil statutory requirements. The Executive Team have also worked for decades in Newham.

We encourage you to continue to fully engage. We thank you for your support and very measured comments to date. It is not ideal to be meeting over 'Zoom' but is the best way given the pandemic to see you in a version of face-to-face; complete the surveys and return them before the closing dates. We will always meet up with individuals safely, and by arrangement, should they want to speak to staff to share views or find out further information.

