



19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Following a meeting this morning, we shall today propose to the Lonsdale Governing Body and East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust that, with effect from Monday Lonsdale Residential Educational Department will close until further notice. This is to allow nurses to support the acute Hospital Trust and to deploy nurses to Lister Hospital, and also to ensure that Lonsdale support staff capacity is increased to maximum during the school day to support the prolonged predicted absence.

This is a joint decision and recommendation to East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust managers and to Lonsdale Governing Body. We appreciate that these are difficult times and circumstances, and nursing staff must be deployed where the need is greatest, to prioritise acute care required for all those experiencing life threatening illness as a result of Covid-19.

We both acknowledge the extreme circumstances we find ourselves in. We will jointly make decisions about medical cover at Lonsdale School on a day by day basis, with the understanding that the majority of Lonsdale pupils will access home education. However we are also both mindful that this situation may change if some of our students return to school. Should this prove to be the case, the situation would need to be reviewed, as the predicted reduced support from nurses for acute care will impact on Lonsdale capacity.

Please may we also take this opportunity to remind parents that, for any child who is socially distanced, or is accessing education from their home, the first port of call for any medical issues is their GP and existing medical team, and not Lonsdale School nurses.

We thank you for your continued support during these difficult times.

Annemari Ottridge
Headteacher

Lisa Gaudion
Nurse Team Manager
Special Schools