

Learning for Life!



Headteacher: **Ms Annemari Ottridge** M.Ed. NPQH NPQEL

8th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Lonsdale School Residential Department (REP) has been closed since March 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The school and the local authority acknowledge the importance of this provision and we are working together to reopen REP as soon as it is safe to do so, and also in line with all prevailing government guidance.

Lonsdale Governing Body discussed the REP reopening plan in the July meeting, and this was presented and discussed at the REP Panel meeting this week. As you are aware the REP Panel consisted of representation from the School, Residential Provision, Health, Governing Body and the Local Authority.

After giving full consideration to the information provided and to ensure appropriate measures are in place, a decision was made to delay the reopening of REP until October 2020 at the earliest.

This will enable the school, health colleagues and the local authority to reassess the prevailing national and local guidance during the summer vacation and at the start of the autumn term. Subject to the prevailing guidance, the school will undertake and update all risk assessments on the school and Residential Provision as well as on individual pupils. This will enable the school to make any adjustments required, and further consider when it would be appropriate to reopen the provision to ensure pupils are managed appropriately and safely.

Whilst it may be appropriate to reopen at the beginning of October, this may be on reduced numbers and may be based on changes to the allocated nights per pupil. It may also be deemed that the beginning of October would not be appropriate and is too soon to ensure suitable arrangements can be put in place. When and how the residential provision will reopen will be based on the prevailing guidance, the latest Covid-19 management arrangements and will ensure both pupils and staff are kept safe.

We will keep you updated on all developments and hope that we can reopen the provision in October 2020 for our current students. New referrals and admissions will be considered from January 2021 subject to above.

We are keen to ensure all pupils can return to Lonsdale School at the beginning of term in September and we are currently working to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to welcome them back.

Yours sincerely

Annemari Ottridge
Headteacher

Russell Lebe
Chair of Governors

Chandra Green
Vice-Chair of Governors

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