

# Headteachers' Update

## The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

### Easter Holiday

As today is the last day of the so-called Easter school holiday, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support during this period. When we were all given just 48 hours to close all our schools and come up with a plan for vulnerable children, EHCP children and the children of key workers, we identified the Easter period as being a major pinch-point where we may encounter real difficulties, especially over the long Bank Holiday weekend. The fact that we have, together, successfully negotiated this fortnight, with every single child that requested a place being found one, is because of the time, effort and energy that you and your staff have put into this project. On behalf of everybody at Northumberland County Council, I would like you to know how much your efforts have been appreciated.

### Pupil Numbers

I thought that you may be interested to know that yesterday, Thursday, we had 320 pre-school, school and AP settings open with 1039 children in attendance.

Of those 1039 children, 790 were from key worker families, 184 were seen as vulnerable and 65 have an EHCP.

We have also had very positive feedback from colleagues in Children's Social Care about the high-quality liaison and communication that CSC have had from schools about individual vulnerable children.

### School Practice in Relation to EHCP learners

Many thanks to all school SENCOs who have responded to a call for examples of their work with EHCP learners since the pandemic began. The Regional SEND Lead for DfE made a request for examples of innovative and good practice with regards to how schools are effectively supporting learners and their families whilst many of them are remaining at home. It is striking to see how schools are responding to not only the individual learner but also their families, sometimes offering places to siblings in order to support the best interests of the family.

We have read with great interest what has come back and are happily going to forward examples to the DfE at the beginning of next week. Common themes are:

- schools have continued to offer places for children with EHCPs on an ongoing basis.
- regular contact via many different means is a strong feature, using phone calls, online learning, socially distanced appropriate home visits.
- schools have been providing work appropriate to outcomes in Plans, which is sensitive to individual needs and the families ability to manage it.
- schools have provided equipment to support learning at home and have reported novel ways of delivering lesson content via teachers/TAs recording video and audio clips.

A number of schools are also forward planning for transitions for their learners and are working out interesting ways to support moves.

We are pleased to note that schools report finding the padlets available on the NCC website very helpful.

Thank you again for your contributions. We will be continuing to gather examples and finding a way to share the good practice that we are seeing across the County.

### **NQT reports**

Please continue to submit your end of assessment period reports for NQTs. Details of the current thinking from the DfE/TRA are [here](#).

### **PPE Production**

Many thanks to those schools who have produced, or are producing, PPE for use by frontline staff. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Thanks also to those schools who have donated raw materials for PPE, and science safety goggles from their classrooms. Every item is making a difference.

### **Good News**

A reminder to send any items of good news to [dave.cookson@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:dave.cookson@northumberland.gov.uk) who will pass them onto the Communications Team at County Hall. Talking of good news, Cambois Primary School were featured on the Steph Show on Channel 4 this morning. You will still be able to see it this weekend on [All 4](#).

### **Safe to Learn Edition 33**

This week's edition of Safe to Learn is available at: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/Looked%20after%20children/Safe-to-Learn-Bulletin-Issue-33-17-04-20.pdf>.

In addition, the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership has produced a document, 'Keeping Children Happy and Safe Online During COVID-19' is available at: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/Looked%20after%20children/NSSP-Safety-Online-Covid-19.pdf>.

### **DfE Updates**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers?utm\\_source=40caf546-4b52-4b52-b1cf-5bc1e9f549ac&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=gov-uk-notifications&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers?utm_source=40caf546-4b52-4b52-b1cf-5bc1e9f549ac&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=gov-uk-notifications&utm_content=daily)

Information for parents and carers about the closure of schools and other educational settings following the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Change made: Updated resources and support and added a new section for Admissions.

### **Confirmation of GCSE and A level publication dates**

The Secretary of State, has confirmed that this year's GCSE students will get their results on Thursday 20 August, while those who are awaiting A level results will get theirs on Thursday 13 August. These dates are the same as those published at the start of this academic year and should provide further clarity for all young people, their parents and carers who are expecting to receive their results this summer. The information on how GCSE and A Levels will be impacted by the closure of education settings is in previously published guidance.

### **Early Years and Pre-School Update**

This week's Update specifically for our early years and pre-school providers can be found as the first item on the Early Years *padlet* at:

[https://nlandeducation.padlet.org/gill\\_finch2/wgkp9kc35c5g](https://nlandeducation.padlet.org/gill_finch2/wgkp9kc35c5g).

### **Post 16 Learning & Skills**

Like schools, our Post 16 Learning and Skills Service has continued to engage with learners remotely during this COVID19 period.

We have had some excellent examples of good news stories from lecturers and learners that I am keen to share with you. I know that you will enjoy them.

Italian class:

From our Italian Step Up Course – Lesson 1

Adjectives and Comparatives

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omHV\\_A0tXw8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omHV_A0tXw8&feature=youtu.be)

---

Another (our second) fantastic cookery session:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjNKR2WZ0ao&feature=youtu.be>.

In addition, the Post 16 Learning and Skills Service has identified a fantastic help guide for teaching from home which I hope you find useful:  
<https://teachfromhome.google/intl/en/>.