

Friday 22nd January 2021,

Dear Parent/ Carer

Wk. Three update from the WHF Special school sector- Nylands, St Luke’s and The Peak Academy

I continue to thank you all for the incredible efforts and adapting so quickly to home study or onsite provision. You all continue to adapt extremely well.

I have the pleasure of observing the live lessons on offer across the WHF Special school sector and been very impressed with the teacher’s adaptability to the new role. With this in mind it is important we raise the expectations to support those on remote schooling and I know the pastoral teams will be sending out useful guidance to help parents and pupils at home.

Below I’ve outlined my plan for the Special schools. Following the recent government update, the guidance is clear we should encourage attendance of all vulnerable pupils. However, I am aware there are many anxieties to overcome which will require different phases. The diagram shows each one of these phases and I have marked where we currently reside.

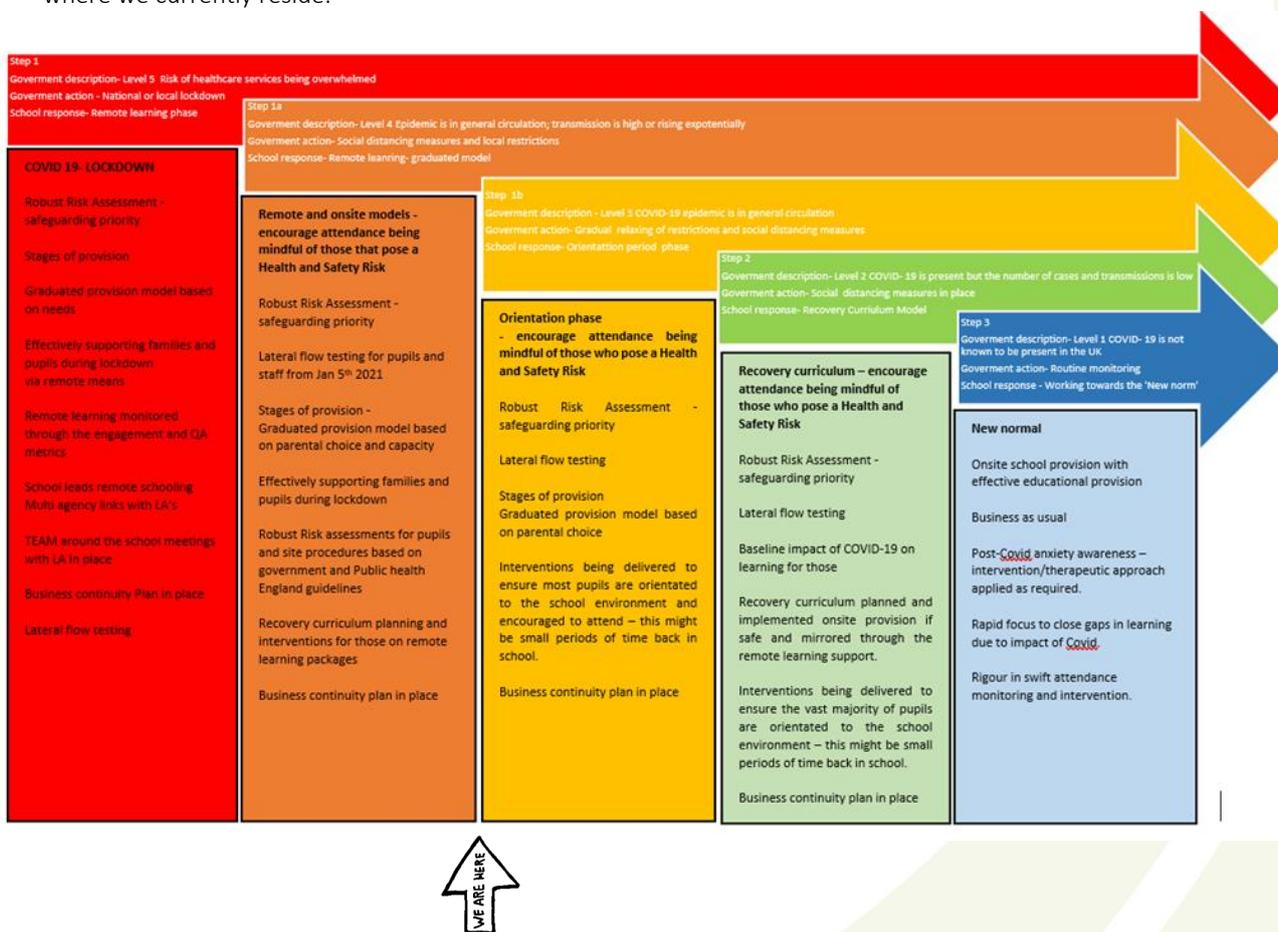


Diagram: step plan to support the widening of provision in WHF special schools in line with Government measures.

The government have recently announced that end of year exams will still take place in some form and with this in mind it is important Yr. 11's and Yr. 6's remains focused. Our aim is to ensure we have enough evidence of the young people's ability to submit end of Key stage results to exam boards. In order to do this successfully we must have a bank of work which demonstrates you son or daughters' ability. Therefore, it is very important all pupil's remain focused on learning, participate in assessments and continue to try their best at all times. With this in mind, I would encourage all Yr. 11's to attend onsite provision to receive face to face support, for some we understand the continued education through alternative provision is the best way forward. Please contact the school in the first instance to agree this and discuss any fears you may have as we remain steadfast in our 3 pledges below.

We promise 3 things **"The White Horse Pledge"**

1. Covid safety at all times
2. High quality educational delivery
3. Well-being of staff and pupils

If at anytime you feel we can improve, please don't hesitate to contact me or the Principal and we can work together. Of course, if you feel we are doing a good job please let us know. Its nice to hear positives as well.

Celebrations

In brief, I have witnessed and heard of some incredible pupils and staff who have risen to the challenge. In no particular order here are just a few of the highlights from week 3;

- All three Special schools for their continued support to pupils, families and staff.
- Ms Dougan for her hard work at St Luke's and founding the MAT around the world challenge in March.
- Mr Peyton at St Luke's for his great start and the curriculum developments in the vocational area.
- Over 600 live lessons taught this week by all 3 Special Schools. 90% engagement at St Luke's.
- Excellent onsite attendance at Nylands
- Home visits and sightings of pupils to support those on remote learning with IT support from our staff and WHF.
- Critical and robust safeguarding support from Mrs Lewis, Mrs Birkett and Mrs O'Brien.
- The vast amount of brilliant work being completed by all the pupils.

Lastly, your child's welfare continues to be our highest priority during face to face support and when studying at home. All our staff are working as normal and are available for advice and support. Please let us know if there is anything which we should be aware of or can help with. The weeks ahead are going to be difficult for all of us, but better days are coming.

If you have any questions, please contact me or the schools.

Many thanks for your support

Yours sincerely,



Richard Lewis
Director SEMH, The White Horse Federation/ Principal, The Peak Academy