

20 March 2020



— THE —
ELMGREEN

Dominic Bergin BA(Hons) NPQH
Headteacher

Dear Families

I would like to begin by thanking the community for your patience and forbearance with what has been a very difficult week where the narrative has shifted very quickly from one hour to the next. I would imagine our instructions will change again but for the moment we do at least now seem to have a sense of what next week will look like.

The school will be open on Monday 20 March onwards for the following groups:

- **Students with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP).** These families will already been contacted
- **Students where a parent is a key worker.** Families have been emailing us all day with this information. If you do not receive communication from us to the contrary you can presume that your son or daughter is free to come to school on Monday

I can only reiterate the Government guidance that '**parents should keep their children at home wherever possible**'. We are in the middle of a global pandemic and Lambeth and London have a particularly high number of cases. The school will do the very best it can to keep our young people safe but the very safest thing is to be at home.

School, certainly for the next week will, be at normal times. We need to assess the impact of travel restrictions on staff travel but can only do that once we have followed the timetable for the week. The building will not be open until 8.00am.

Exactly the same rules will apply on uniform, mobile phones, junk food etc. Even though we will not follow a traditional curriculum we want students to feel as normal as possible in abnormal times.

Home Learners

As I have stated in the last couple of days we already have a significant amount of resource on Show My Homework and Google Classroom. We also have lots of packs available for pick up in the next few days. Year 7 packs are all available today. Year 8 to 10 packs will be available early next week. This will develop over the weeks as we develop more sophisticated ways of working but if you are not receiving work or have any queries about receiving a pack, please contact admin@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk for the attention of Mr. Ryan who is doing an excellent job of coordinating resources.

Elmcourt Road

London SE27 9BZ

Telephone 020 8766 5020

Fax 020 8761 2312

email admin@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk

website www.the-elmgreen-school.org.uk



humanities



Healthy Schools



The Great North Woods
Education Trust



LPPA

Company Number 10679690

Free School Meals

A reminder as well that students who receive a Free School Meal can come to the school, certainly in the next week, between 11.45 to 12.30 for a meal. The government is suggesting a voucher system, which we are looking at, but in the first instance we feel we can provide hot food in a safe, staggered environment.

Safety

I am more than aware of how challenging the next few months will be for families. The safety of our children is our number one priority and we will do our best to keep them safe albeit remotely in many cases. Please find a list of useful email addresses and phone numbers below and if you have any safeguarding concerns please email safeguarding@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk Can I also remind you, and I know how difficult this is, that children should not be gathering in big groups and should be observing social distancing. Humans are gregarious by nature and young people particularly so, but we have been asked to observe these rules for a reason. I, like you, would like to see everybody safe for the future.

Staff

I would like to end by publically thanking all of the staff at The Elmgreen School. I am a reasonably pragmatic person and I am not suggesting that I am asking them to walk into the reactor at Chernobyl, but our staff are being asked to do something that is contrary to the advice given to most other adults working in this country. They have worked this week, not only without complaint, but also with a creativity about how to make the very best of this situation for our young people. So amongst all the absolutely correct praise for our NHS services, I would like to say that all staff who work in schools whether it be teaching, support, administrative, premises or catering are a little bit heroic as well. I have certainly felt that this week.

Hopefully we will now have a week or so where you don't have to have a daily letter from me but please continue to check the website for any updates.

Yours faithfully



Dominic Bergin
Headteacher

Elmcourt Road
London SE27 9BZ
Telephone 020 8766 5020
Fax 020 8761 2312

email admin@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk
website www.the-elmgreen-school.org.uk



Company Number 10679690

Appendix

Support for Students with SEND

You will be aware that the government announced that from Friday 20 March schools are to close indefinitely. To support families it was also confirmed by the Department of Education that students with Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) or families who are supported by Children's Social Care should have opportunity to attend school. As a community school we fully endorse the need for this provision and recognise the help it will provide during this challenging period.

The Elmgreen School therefore wishes to confirm that the school is open for students with an EHCP or who are supported by their local authorities social care team. You should therefore have received a letter outlining our provision.

We have put in place a revised curriculum taught by our teachers. Your child should arrive in full school uniform at 8.25am. If he or she is entitled, a free school meal will be provided, otherwise can I ask that you ensure sufficient funds are on the lunch card. The school day will end at 3.15pm.

The Inclusion Team will be contacting all families each Friday during term time by telephone. This is so we can inform you of how your child has progressed or to request information relating to their future attendance.

To assist, can I also ask that you confirm whether you will be sending your child to school. To do so please email admin@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk.

With regards support, students in Years 7 to 10 will also be receiving subject specific work. This is available via *Show My Homework*. In terms of further guidance or support relating to SEND please find below a list of organizations who will be available to assist. Contact details of the Inclusion team are also below.

Steven Grant

Service	What support can they provide?	Contact details
The Elmgreen School SEND Support Team	The Elmgreen School SEND team are happy to reply to any concerns or questions	sgarner@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk zdeakin@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk dpogson@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk
Autism Lambeth National Autistic Society	Local and National advice and support websites for parents to support young people with autism as they move into this new way of accessing and completing their work	https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/send-local-offer/education/lambeth-autism-advisory-service https://www.autism.org.uk/
Dyslexia Society	There is an advice section, that may prove helpful for parents	https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/
National Deaf Children's Society	Deaf and hard of hearing children and families	https://www.ndcs.org.uk
High Trees Community Development Trust (mental and emotional health)	High Trees can offer online coaching via video or phone to any young people who are wanting additional support	To sign up please get in touch by emailing elen.evans@high-trees.org or sending a text to 07415308551.
Lambeth Local Offer	Lambeth website with SEND services	https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/SEND-LOCAL-OFFER
ADHD and related support in Lambeth	Lambeth support for anyone with a child with ADHD. The website has advice and support on what's happening in Lambeth	https://www.arcslambeth.co.uk
Lambeth Parent Forum	Lambeth SEN parent forum offering mutual support and information	Info@lambethparentforum.com
Organisations relating to mental wellbeing and support		On My Mind: www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind Child line: www.childline.org.uk or 0800 1111 Kooth: www.kooth.com Redthread: www.redthread.org.uk or 0208 473 1584 Off the Record: 0208 251 0251 Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk