

Wednesday 22 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**RE: LSA support and Covid-19**

It has been wonderful to welcome all of our students back to KAA in the autumn term, even though things will have felt a bit different due to the measures that have been put in place to combat Covid-19. In particular, I am hearing many positives from our students with ECHPs on how much they are enjoying school. It seems that they, in fact, prefer many of the new arrangements such as consistent class groups and less crowding at lunch and break time.

I also thought it is important to be upfront with you about the challenges that lie ahead in terms of ensuring that your child has the provision to which they are entitled. You will be aware that in many schools across the country there are acute staffing shortages due to many members of staff being forced to self-isolate for prolonged periods. KAA is not immune to these pressures, however, thankfully so far we have been able to put in place measures to minimise the disruption to students.

As the term progresses it is likely that we will see more challenges in relation to staffing in all areas, particularly if transmission rates continue to increase locally and nationally. This means that there may well be periods of time where we are unable to provide teaching assistant support in your child's lessons. We will of course do everything in our power to reduce the impact of this as far as we can, however, if absence levels continue to rise then there will be no practical way for us to cover every lesson that is needed.

Please rest assured that, where unpredictable staffing pressures mean that your child's teaching assistant is absent, we will ensure that teachers are adequately briefed on suitable support strategies for your child. Additionally, we will deploy any staff we do have available to support students with EHCPs, above other priorities.

Thank you very much for your patience and understanding in this matter, I am confident that the issue I have outlined above will be limited in nature and will not endure in the long term. If you have any questions about the measures outlined in this letter please do not hesitate to contact me directly by email at [n.dumigan@kaa.org.uk](mailto:n.dumigan@kaa.org.uk).

Kind Regards,



**Niall Dumigan**  
**Assistant Principal**