



20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your family are keeping safe and well.

In the last few days, we took the extremely difficult decision to close Royal School Manchester and Royal College Manchester. Although school and college are closed, our residential students who are on 45/52 week placements, for whom Seashell Trust is their home, will continue to be supported on campus as long as it is safe to do so. This decision has not been taken lightly and we acknowledge the impact on families who will suddenly be faced with finding specialist childcare at home.

For the children and young people who live at Seashell all year round, we are trying to maintain their daily routines as much as possible within the confines dictated by Government guidelines. Our dedicated staff (those who are able to work) are providing 24 hour a day support to our residents. Our education and care teams are organising additional activities on site to keep everyone in good spirits and provide physical activities.

We are encouraging parents who want to visit their children onsite to consider how they can minimise risk of infection to themselves and residents. We would appreciate if you could call before visiting, wash hands when arriving at the house, and spend time with your child in their bedroom, in the home's garden, or across the wider site. We are also looking at other ways, using a variety of technology, via which families can keep in touch instead of coming to site.

For those parents and carers whose children have returned, or are returning, to their family home, I wish to reassure you that we are actively exploring ways in which we can continue to provide you with support throughout this uncertain period. Whilst we cannot provide hands-on therapy, our therapists are available to support you. We have devised a plan to provide essential information immediately electronically, and our therapy team will be in touch with you as soon as possible. The team are also currently working on creative ways that we may support young people and families at home in the upcoming weeks.

Additionally, our teaching staff are preparing materials that you may find helpful and we will be sharing these with you next week.

We will be in touch with all of you on Monday to talk about the current situation. I would also like to let you know in advance, that during our conversation, we would like to gather some information regarding your specific circumstances. We are doing this to assess how best we can provide direct services to you and your children as soon as possible, bearing in mind the level of our education and care staff fit to work.

We understand that a difficult and uncertain time lies ahead and I would like to express my continued appreciation for your understanding. Please be assured that we are doing everything we possibly can as we focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of all our students, their families, and our staff.

Yours sincerely,

Jolanta McCall
Chief Executive and Principal

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