



## **FAMILY NEWSLETTER 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Dear Families

I am writing to you following the government announcement yesterday regarding school arrangements from 1<sup>st</sup> June. There are still many details under discussion and evolving, nationally and locally, but I thought that an early indication of the position at Granta might be helpful.

In many ways our provision will remain as it is now, with an appropriately cautious increase in the number of pupils on site from 1<sup>st</sup> June (currently we support 26 per week). The safety of our staff and families remains paramount and any increase will be subject to confirmation that the national indicators are correct to go ahead and adherence to the precautions being recommended. That includes the potential for groups of pupils and staff to need to self isolate should a case of coronavirus be tested positively within the pupil community. Our service to date has been reliable and sustainable, we will not rush into a situation which causes a "stop/start" approach to attendance which our pupils would struggle to understand and manage and which could cause additional stress to you.

Firstly it's important to recognise that Granta is not closed, we offer a service every day to the majority of pupils via distance learning at home and to a few pupils on site. I have received many positive comments about the amount and quality of learning support and keeping in touch calls that our staff have provided. We all love seeing the photographs you have sent in from home.

This will not change. We will continue our phone calls and provision of distance learning. If you and your child have not yet looked at the extra items, including a number of staff videos on our website, please do, I think you will enjoy them.

We are already providing lunches on site for those pupils who are attending and lunch vouchers for pupils at home who are eligible for free school meals. That will not change.

We are reviewing our total capacity for onsite attendance from June 1<sup>st</sup> and we are not required to limit that to the recommended year groups. We already support on site attendance through an individual risk assessment process and that will not change. If you require school attendance then please request and complete our request form. Supporting pupils on site in a special school is a complex balance of multiple factors linked to individual pupil needs. Our established practice of part week attendance for those who do access site provides an opportunity to help the maximum number of families across a week with at least one familiar member of staff. We will continue with that model. There is no anticipated change.

We are aware of the range of individual reasons why families may not want their child or young person to attend school from 1<sup>st</sup> June and we do not anticipate any change to our approach.

## **What might change?**

As we review our onsite use of rooms, movement of people around the building and allocation of available staff with the appropriate training, your attending child may see the following changes. We may deliver sessions in rooms that pupils do not currently access; for example primary pupils may use more of our secondary classrooms. We may stagger arrival and departure times, we may alter the way in which staff teams are allocated. We understand that many of our pupils get used to new routines quickly and we run the risk of establishing additional transition points that might prove problematic in the future. These are all factors in our assessments moving forward and all points of discussion with yourselves about what your child may or may not be able to manage.

## **Staying in touch**

This is my final newsletter to you as I will leave Granta on 31<sup>st</sup> May. I am indebted to the governors, local authority and my new employers for allowing me the opportunity to stay an extra half term and be part of this strong and resilient community during this difficult time. Your next newsletter will come from Sarah Crouch and she will keep you up to date.

Please do remember that you can contact school at any time with any question, concern, comment or compliment that you may have.

<b>Office email</b>	<b><a href="mailto:office@granta.cambs.sch.uk">office@granta.cambs.sch.uk</a></b>
<b>Welfare email</b>	<b><a href="mailto:welfareandsafeguarding@granta.cambs.sch.uk">welfareandsafeguarding@granta.cambs.sch.uk</a></b>
<b>Office phone</b>	<b>01223 896890</b>

With very best wishes to you all. I take with me very many fond and lasting memories

Lucie