

NAHE update 5.10.20

Hello everyone

Good to see some of you last week, albeit virtually. We can always feel the positive vibes from everyone and it feels supportive - as someone said to me - it is great to be part of the NAHE family!

Apologies - there is a lot of information to share today.

AGM - in line with the requirements of NAHE being a community interest company, we have to hold an annual general meeting. Details of date, time and agenda went out last week but the details are here in case you missed it - hope you can make it.

The NAHE AGM will be taking place on Tuesday 13th October from 4 – 4.30pm via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84721357980?pwd=S1U4MHRzN21DUmNuSW1hUVlkQ1ZrQT09>

Meeting ID: 847 2135 7980

Passcode: 9tbSRN

Details can also be found in the Events section of the website.

Laptops for hospital schools - some of you said that you had not had information about how to order laptops - well don't get excited, they will only arrive if your area goes into a lockdown - not at all helpful. The updated guidance is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-laptops-and-tablets-for-children-who-cannot-attend-school-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

I am awaiting a response from DfE contacts about why some of you have not heard, but in the meantime I would suggest emailing: covid.technology@education.gov.uk

Additional 100,000 Wi-Fi-enabled devices - The DfE has [announced](#) an extra 100,000 laptops as an extension to the [scheme](#) to support remote education. They have also updated the information [device ownership](#).

Key points for us are:

Devices can be ordered for disadvantaged children in years 3 to 11 who are unable to attend school when:

- a school has 15 or more children in years 3 to 11 who are self-isolating having each been exposed to a confirmed case outside the school community.
- a local health protection team has advised a group of children in years 3 to 11 (such as a 'bubble' or year group) not to attend school.
- a school or college is fully open, but supporting a disadvantaged child living in another area who is unable to attend due to local travel restrictions.

Devices can be ordered for disadvantaged children in any year group who are unable to attend school when:

- a school or college supports a clinically extremely vulnerable and disadvantaged child who has been [instructed to shield](#) by a medical professional or local health protection team.
- a school or college supports a disadvantaged child who has been advised to shield as a member of their household is clinically extremely vulnerable.
- a hospital school supports a disadvantaged child who does not have access to a device.

The limitations outlined here are concerning, particularly in light of the continuity direction.

Family Fund - Support is available to families through Family Fund for specialist equipment for children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). <https://www.familyfund.org.uk>". You may have already been aware of the family fund but we had a couple of questions about specialised equipment so I'm just sending this link out to make awareness that this is another avenue to take during restrictions

Exams - STILL awaiting feedback from Ofqual on the position with exams for next year. We must ensure that grades and qualifications are directly based on the actual performance of the individual student. While we favour exams as the fairest way of assessing and awarding qualifications, given the recent warnings from the chief medical officer and chief scientific officer it would be ridiculous not to set out clearly now how significant disruption to exams and learning itself can be mitigated in the year ahead.

It is also now inevitable that for us there will be even more significant unevenness of learning as we have to close or partially close and this will be uneven across the country. No examination system can fully reverse the differential loss caused by this unevenness, so mitigation strategies must be focused at both assessment and teaching and learning. While we can provide remote education, we know that nothing replaces the classroom.

There are no perfect solutions for examinations in 2021 and we realise that opinions on this issue are deeply held and often divided but clarity is urgently needed. In the interests of fairness to students, the system must be able to offer reassurance in the very near future about what the arrangements are for this academic year so we can prepare them accordingly.

Ofsted - Steve shared the slides outlining the plans for the interim visits that Ofsted are undertaking this term - these will be available on the website shortly (check out Support and Advice - Ofsted section). I have also uploaded another document shared by a colleague who is part of the PA and SEND MAT network called 'Ofsted monitoring visits - areas to consider' in case it is useful.

The unions have challenged Ofsted on the term 'visits' and they have confirmed that they are a type of inspection. However, the key points are:

- The visits enable leaders to identify their successes and challenges through objective discussion with inspectors
- The visits will not result in any evaluation or graded judgement of a school or change a school's current Ofsted inspection grade
- The visits will not provide any evidence or lines of enquiry for later inspection events, once routine inspection resumes.

I also listened to Dan Owen (lead HMI) talk about the visits this week. He was clear that they are interested in what is happening NOW, not judging what you did last term. The visits are designed to be supportive and discursive and you do not need to provide any:

- Planning
- Documents
- Preparation
- Lesson visits

And this will not alter your window for your next scheduled Ofsted visit.

All inspectors have undergone training on remote learning and have undertaken a literature review so they are prepared. The sort of basic questions they will ask are:

- Does the child/children have the equipment they need to access remote learning? Internet access? Do your materials use up too much of their data? (i.e. have you considered all parts of accessibility)

- What changes to content and sequencing have you made as a consequence of going to remote, if any? (Obviously things are better taught face to face!)

I asked if they would be asking the question about provision for pupils with medical needs/those who are shielding and he confirmed they would BUT not making a judgement on the school.

He was also asked about inspection of the single central register - he replied that they will ask about any changes to the register since the last time you were inspected and will then check that people have had the appropriate checks.

Don't forget you can request a deferral as we continue to be uncertain about local circumstances.

Government's temporary continuity direction for remote education - No doubt you will have seen the Government's temporary continuity direction for remote education, which was published on Thursday. The details of the Direction are set out below. There are some concerns about this across the sectors. We have already been doing this for the most part and feel that the continuity direction is unnecessary for most pupils who have received the best remote provision that we have been able to provide within our particular constraints. We are concerned about this contributing to a harmful public narrative about the school system.

Temporary Continuity Direction – New legal requirement

- The explanatory note is [here](#)
- The actual legal text is [here](#).
- The Direction comes into force 22nd October 2020 and will last until the end of the academic year (unless revoked).
- It applies to community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary schools, pupil referral units, non-maintained special schools, Academy schools and alternative provision Academies
 - Schools must provide remote education for classes, groups or individual pupils who are self-isolating, or where there are local or national restriction restrictions requiring them to stay at home.
 - Schools must have regard for the guidance issued about remote education, such as the [guidance for full opening](#). You might want to re-visit this guidance as it is now tied to the temporary continuity direction.
 - The Secretary of State may apply for an injunction against the responsible body of any school which fails to comply with the Direction, requiring it to do so.

Support for remote education – resources and guidance - Given the temporary continuity order outlined above, the DfE has updated/published a range of guidance and resources to support schools:

- [Get help with remote education](#) – updated guidance to reflect continuity direction
- [Remote education good practice](#) – new guide
- [Remote education webinars](#) – new dates added

COVID-19 test deliveries - Some of you may have received notification earlier in the week that couriers were bringing your next batch of COVID tests. Unfortunately, schools were told these might not arrive until 8pm! This was raised with the DfE and they have now ensured that deliveries will take place before 4pm.

Track and Trace App - We have been investigating whether staff can be required to use the app. Lawyers have advised us that this is unlikely to be consistent with GDPR, and this would be especially the case where the device was not owned by the school. Therefore, their view is that we cannot mandate that staff download or use the app.