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All school students in Hackney

For the latest Hackney Council updates on Coronavirus, including information about schools, and to sign-up to the Council's newsletter, visit: hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus

Dear students,

We last wrote to you [four weeks ago](#) as most of you were leaving school because of the Coronavirus outbreak.

As the summer term begins, whether you're returning to school or learning from home, things will still probably feel strange.

Many shops and places of work are closed – and Hackney is very different to how it usually is. We have also had to change some of the facilities in our parks that you might have used.

For those of you starting this term by going to school or college, you will be doing so for a good reason which benefits your family and the community. Thank you. We've been hearing lots about the learning you are taking part in. We've also seen the amazingly creative thank you messages for Council and NHS workers that have been shared with us. We also know that many of your schools have donated goggles to the NHS, which is a fantastic thing to do to help protect NHS staff.

For those of you not attending school or college for now, you will be getting support from your school or college and they will have set up learning activities for you.



It is important that you keep on learning – as much as possible, and as if you were still at school. We've been incredibly pleased to hear and see some of the great examples of work you've been doing at home, and we look forward to continuing to see more of this. Those of you in examination years will be hearing soon from your school about what will contribute to your final grades. If you have any questions about school work resources, please speak to your school, who will be able to help you.

Young Hackney are now delivering an online activity programme too. You can access a variety of activities at younghackney.org.

We met representatives of the Hackney Youth Parliament online, who told us how the current situation is affecting young people and we plan to do more online engagement over the weeks ahead. They raised the important issue of how children and young people eligible for free school meals would be able to buy food while schools are closed. The Government is providing vouchers to families, but we have written to them to ask them to make the vouchers valid in more shops.

As you will have heard, people in the borough are still ill with Coronavirus, which is why it's really important that you follow the advice of your school about what you can and can't do at the moment. This means you might not be able to see anyone other than your immediate family for the time being, but this is to help reduce the possibility of you and them getting Coronavirus.

Doing exercise and speaking to your friends on the phone will help you feel active and positive, but if you're feeling low, it's really important that you tell your family, trusted adult or school so they can help you. Do also make sure you stay safe when online.

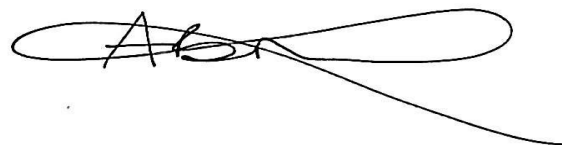
While we are all in our homes more, we are all still part of the Hackney community, and we will continue to look after each other in this difficult time. Do what you can to help out at home and remember, your school is still available if you have any worries or concerns.

Thank you for everything you're doing to help in this difficult time. Hackney is proud of you.

Yours faithfully,



Philip Glanville
Mayor of Hackney



Cllr Anntoinette Bramble
Deputy Mayor of Hackney