

ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, M.Ed, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH

29 April 2020



Dear Students and Families

Ref: Student voice – call to action

I write to you today to ask you how you are doing at this strange time of the national lockdown and how you have coped with the school's closure.

Your views are very important for me to capture so that I understand each of your perspectives and can help make things better now and in the lead up to the re-opening of the school in the future. I also think that your voice matters beyond our school and you deserve a platform from which to speak up.

I would like to invite you to consider sharing your views, in no more than 250 words, accompanied by a good quality photo of yourself. You might want to use the prompts below, but you are also very welcome to just write from the heart.

- How have you been feeling?
- How have you been coping?
- What do you miss the most about your life before the lockdown?
- Are you looking forward to coming back to school, seeing your friends, teachers, re-starting normal activities, community visits, seeing your extended family, etc.?
- What do you think of Abbot's Lea School's response to COVID-19? Have we done enough to keep you safe, informed and engaged? If you were the Headteacher, would you do things differently? If so, what would you do?
- Have you enjoyed learning remotely – what is better: school or home-based learning? Do you think we should change the way we operate schools in the future based on your experience? If so, how?
- Did you enjoy seeing your teachers and friends on the Zoom call?
- When should schools return to normal? What support do you think you might need, if any?
- Is there anyone you wish to thank in particular?
- Anything else that you think the world would want to know about your perspective during lockdown!

All your entries will be read with genuine interest and we will collate all of your views into "Abbot's Lea School Students' Voice: COVID-19". This will be a publication shared with everyone on our social media platforms and our website. Who knows, we might even print it to keep in our archives for the future generations to take inspiration from you all! so please note that by sending your entry, you agree to the publication.

The most insightful reflections will be shared with Educate Magazine which might publish your views in its May edition, alongside the views of other students from across the North West.

This is not a mandatory assignment, but rather an opportunity for you to speak up – about your life at this strange time.

We hear a lot about adults' views, but I have not yet heard a compelling piece about what young people's experience of lockdown has been.

GDPR:

Please note that by submitting your entry, you agree to your piece being published and you agree to use your name and a good quality, high resolution photo of yourself during lockdown for such publication.

Please email your entry (up to 250 words and a high resolution photo) to me directly by this Sunday, 3 May 2020:

headteacher@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

If you do not wish for your views to be published, you are still very welcome to share your views with your Class Teacher during your weekly catch up sessions.

This is a very difficult time, but we will get through it, we will see each other soon enough and we will then be able to talk in person. Trust me when I tell you that every single staff member of our school is missing you and wishing it was sooner rather than later. That said, patience is a virtue and, at this time, a necessity.

Stay strong, stay safe and keep well.

Yours faithfully



Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher